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CONTENTS: Vol. LVIII. No. 6 (Series No. 1,098).

PAGE	PAGE
American Notes..... 240	New Companies and Com- pany News 256
Australasian News 239	Novelties..... 258
Bankruptcy Report 255	Observations and Reflec- tions 247
Bovril (Limited) 251	Personalities 243
Business Changes..... 243	Pharmaceutical Fauna..... 246
College Notes 251	Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain:—
Colonial and Foreign News 240	Council-meeting 241
Coming Events..... 264	Proprietary Articles Trade Association 257
Correspondence 259	Pulv. Algarothi 246
Deaths..... 257	Scotch News 237
Deed of Arrangement 256	Society of Public Analysts 252
East Indian News 239	South African News..... 238
Editorial Comments:—	Students' Corner 234
Pharmaceutical Affairs 248	Trade-marks Applied for... 253
Chilblains 249	Trade Notes 256
Proteolytic Ferments ... 250	Trade Report..... 263
Notes 250	Winter Session 244
English News 234	
French News 238	
Gazette 255	
Irish News 236	
Legal Reports 253	

TINCTURE-STANDARDS.

We have had Mr. F. W. Fletcher's table in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of January 26, 1901, reprinted upon a card with eyelets and string for hanging in the laboratory or at the dispensing-counter, and will send a copy to anyone who sends us four penny stamps.

BUSINESS WITH MERCHANT-SHIPPERS.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of March 9 will be the annual issue to merchant-shippers of the United Kingdom who do business in chemicals, drugs, druggists' sundries, perfumery, bottles, india-rubber goods, and other articles of merchandise common to our business. The exports of these articles last year amounted to over 25,000,000*l.*, and showed a marked advance over 1899. Our merchant-shippers' issue contributes its share to the encouragement of this important trade, and we commend it to all business-houses. Our publisher will furnish full particulars on application.

Summary.

THE latest Store-prices are given on p. 231.

CARBOLIC ACID is now a poison in the Isle of Man (p. 235).

PROFESSOR BAYLEY BALFOUR, as *Aries Scotorum*, figures on p. 246.

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS of news from Australia are given on p. 239.

SOME new facts in regard to the proteolytic ferments are given on p. 250.

ACETYLENE is the subject of an order by the Indian Government (p. 239).

"UNEEDA" has been refused as a trade-mark for the reasons given on p. 253.

A DRASTIC LAW against prescribing has been propounded in New York (p. 240).

USEFUL HINTS on boiler-incrustations are given under "Birmingham Notes" (p. 235).

SIXTEEN STUDENTS OF PHARMACY have been registered under the new regulation (p. 242).

THE Bovril shareholders' meeting on Thursday was rather lively. It is reported on p. 251.

PARKE, DAVIS & Co. are increasing their capital by \$300,000. Their \$25 shares sell at \$75 (p. 256).

A NEW EDITION of the "Pharmacopoeia Homoeopathica Polyglotta" has been published (p. 240).

A PROSECUTION in Liverpool for the sale of ginger-wine containing salicylic acid as a preservative has failed (p. 254).

THE PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL is not to appeal against Lord Stormonth Darling's decision in the Strachan case (p. 243).

A BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL STUDENT is charged at Dublin with impersonating others at a Preliminary examination (p. 237).

CHILBLAINS are seasonable, and may be made a profitable extra if the information given about them on p. 249 is judiciously utilised.

THE RETIRING PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCILLORS are Messrs Allen, Atkins, Corder, Johnston, Martindale, Newsholme, and Savory (p. 241).

THE MIDLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION came to a somewhat different resolution regarding the Pharmacy Bill than that anticipated (p. 244).

THE IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD is of opinion that a contractor who supplies workhouses with methylated liniments acts improperly (p. 237).

AN ADDRESS TO THE THRONE on the occasion of the death of Queen Victoria has been approved by the Pharmaceutical Council. The text is given on p. 241.

MR. E. J. BISHOP, of Folkestone, has won an action which he instituted against a valuer for the recovery of an overcharge in respect to professional services (p. 253).

MR. BREMIDGE, as Registrar under the Pharmacy Acts reports that there were 268 persons more on the register at the end of 1900 (p. 242). We refer to the matter also on p. 249.

QUININE has been advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ d. by makers. Ipecac. is slightly dearer, so are Persian galls. In auction vanilla was dearer, shellac unchanged, and cocoa-butter cheaper. Citric acid tends higher (p. 261).

THE BIRMINGHAM MAGISTRATES have dismissed a summons against a chemist who had substituted a revolver for prussic acid as a means of killing a dog, and the deed did not come off well in one case (p. 235).

MR. A. H. ALLEN, the well-known analyst, read a paper on the British Pharmacopoeia as a standard to the Society of Public Analysts this week, in which he advocated the appointment of a joint committee to call on the General Medical Council with a view to getting an early revision of the B.P., especially in regard to names which may be ambiguous. This suggestion was favoured by the meeting, and Dr. Voelcker, the President, said the Council had appointed a committee to consider the matter (p. 252).

A New Book.

WE have reprinted our DIARY monograph, "Opening a Pharmacy" in book form, uniform as to binding with the "Art of Dispensing." The price is 1s. net, or 1s. post free. It is a most useful book for those who contemplate starting in business as chemists and druggists.

Students' Corner.

CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.I.C., F.C.S.

THE TOURNAMENT.

THE position of competitors in the light of last week's results has shifted considerably. W. B. Perry and "Weno," who were both going strong, have dropped out of competition, and are promptly replaced by "Karlachan" and W. Maxwell respectively, their former next-door neighbours. J. R. Stott, "S.V.R." and R. E. Jackson are also pulling up well, and "Anilin" looks as if he meant business. The first ten are now:—

"Cwm" (390), "Integer" (372), "Karlachan" (371), W. Maxwell (367), J. R. Stott (366), "S.V.R." (356), "Jegow" (345), R. E. Jackson (320), "Anilin" (312), "S. A. M." (310).

There are some others who would have done extremely well in the tournament had they been somewhat more assiduous.

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

A baby at West Norwood suffocated itself last week by getting the whole of a rubber soothing-teat and bone ring into its mouth.

The chemists of North Shields will on and after Monday, February 11, close at 7 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, at 1 on Wednesday, and 8.30 on Friday each week.

James James, *alias* Hunt, was bound over under the First Offenders Act at Barnstaple for obtaining 2s. 6d. by means of false pretences from William Baird, chemist's assistant, Ilfracombe.

At Bedford Petty Sessions on February 4, Washington Davies, a herbalist, was fined 10s. and 7s. 6d. costs for exposing for sale medicines liable to stamp duty without having a licence.

At Southwark Police Court on January 5, Robert Ferber, wholesale druggist, Southwark Bridge Road, was fined 10l. and 2s. costs for keeping petroleum without a licence.

At the Long Eaton Petty Sessions on February 5, Frederick Newton Barber, mineral-water manufacturer, Sawley, was fined 20s. and costs for neglecting to provide gauntlets for bottlers as prescribed by the Factory Act regulations.

An American, named James Conolly, was remanded at Bow Street on January 4, on a charge of being concerned with another man in stealing a watch-chain and two watches from Mr. W. H. Trick, dentist, New Oxford Street, W.

Messrs. Anthony & Co., chemists, Royal Drug-stores, St. Mary Street and Royal Arcade, Cardiff, exhibit in their window a daintily hand-written card stating that duly qualified lady chemists are employed in their establishments.

At Liverpool last week, a warehouseman in the employ of the Niger Trading Company was sent to prison for one month for stealing, amongst other things, a case of gum, two kegs of palm oil, and a bag of guttapercha, the property of his employers.

At an inquiry into the death of a Portsmouth woman named Gray, on January 30, it was found that she had died from fatty degeneration of the heart and that her death was accelerated by taking an unnecessary number of pills. She had been in the habit of taking nine pills a day.

Mark Johnson Whittaker, drug-dealer, of Clayton-le-Moors, was indicted at Manchester Assizes, on January 31,

for the manslaughter of a youth whom he treated for a gunshot wound, but who subsequently died from blood-poisoning. After evidence had been given, the jury found Whittaker not guilty, and Mr. Justice Bigham remarked that the case ought never to have been sent for trial.

Store-prices.

In the February price-circular of the Civil Service Supply Association (Limited), the following are amongst the "alterations" noted:—

Prices Advanced.—Wyeth's beef-juce, from 2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d. per bottle; camphorated oil, from 9d. to 9½d. per 8-oz. bottle; manna, from 4½d. to 5d. per oz., from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per lb. surgeon's lint, from 7d. to 7½d. per ¼ lb.; spongio-piline, from 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. per yard.

Added to Stock.—Allenburys' feeding bottles, 1s. each; Hommel's hæmatogen, 3s. 6d. per bottle; iron jelloids No. 2 (Warrick), 1s. 4½d. per half-gross box; 2s. 5d. per gross box; Armour's pepsin tablets, lactated pepsin tablets, peptonising tablets, and glycerin extract of red bone-marrow; Allen & Hanburys' pastilles; Hood's sarsaparilla, 1s. per bottle.

In the Army and Navy Stores' Circular for this month the following "should read":—

Alliott's fumigating-paper, 4½d. per packet; digestenzym tablets, 2s. 8d. per bottle; Martindale's ozonic inhaler, 1s. 8d. each; linseed (whole and crushed), 3d. per lb., per 7 lb. 1s. 7d.; Mariana wine, 3s. 6d. per bottle; Wyeth's beef-juce, 3s. 2d. per bottle; Cupiss's balls, 1s. 3d. per packet; 4,711 Eau de Cologne, 1s. 10d. per bottle.

These are "reduced":—

Formalin lamp, 8s. 6d.; Formalin tablets, 8d. and 3s. 2d. per box; menthol inhalers, 1s. 3d. each.

The following are "additions":—

Abbey's effervescent salt, 1s. 3d. per bottle; Cargona lozenges, 10½d. per box; Horlick's malted-milk tablets, 1s. 4d. per box; Falliere's phosphatine, 1s. 8d. per bottle; laxative bromo quinine, 1s. per box; Angier's petroleum tablets, 1s. per box.

Price's glycerole of malt has been discontinued.

Medical Officer and Public Analyst for London.

The death of Dr. Sedgwick Saunders the medical officer of health and public analyst for the City of London, is generally assumed to have created a vacancy in these appointments, but the Corporation has not yet intimated or advertised the vacancy. We understand, however, that the two offices are distinct. Amongst those who have applied for the medical officership is Dr. Collingwood, the medical officer of the Port of London; and for the analytical appointment the applications are numerous, amongst them Mr. E. J. Parry, B.Sc., and Dr. Samuel Rideal.

To be Considered.

On February 1, at a meeting of the Wolverhampton Guardians, the appointment of a dispenser to the workhouse again came up for consideration. Mr. J. Hyde moved that Mr. Augustus Colman be appointed at a salary of 130l. per annum. The Clerk read a communication from the Pharmaceutical Society, politely informing the Board that they ought not to appoint a dispenser who was not qualified, and Mr. Hyde said he was well aware that he was not adopting what had been the regular course. He claimed, however, that Mr. Colman was fitted for the position, although unqualified. The motion was seconded, but Mr. J. W. Sankey said the subject was so important that it should be first considered in committee, and he moved that the question of the appointment and also the whole question of the dispensing arrangements, be referred to the General Purposes Committee. This seemed to meet general approval, and Mr. Hyde ultimately withdrew his resolution in favour of Mr. Sankey's amendment. The Clerk informed the Board that he had had several other applications for the appointment, and the amendment was carried unanimously.

The Pill-vendor's Complaint.

At West Ham Police Court on January 31, Henry Downs was summoned for obstructing the highway at Green Street, Upton Park, a busy marketing thoroughfare, by lecturing on "Pills" from a stall. He had attracted a crowd of about a hundred people, and was asked to desist, but declined. Another man beside defendant, who was selling hair-restorer,

went away when spoken to. Mr. Baggallay (Magistrate): Did the hair-restorer man attract a crowd? Defendant: Yes, sir. There was a crowd round him. Mr. Baggallay: Mostly ladies, I suppose? Defendant: Ladies and gentlemen together. Defendant's wife said her husband sold "Pink Pills." They had been "highly recommended by the Judge," and had received testimonials from all over the world. They could not stand there without explaining the virtues of the pills. Mr. Baggallay: Who talks—you or your husband? Witness: Both of us. The Magistrate ordered defendant to pay the cost of the summons, and to take care in future not to cause an obstruction. Mrs. Downs: Stop talking when the crowd gets round? The Magistrate: Yes; you could explain it by dumb show.

In Manxland.

The order of the Privy Council regarding the scheduling of carbolic acid has been forwarded, amongst other places, to the Isle of Man. As Section 4 of the Isle of Man Pharmacy Act states that all articles which shall be "deemed to be poisons within the meaning of the Imperial Act known as the Pharmacy Act, 1868," shall be "deemed to be poisons within the meaning" of the Manx Act, carbolic acid will be added to the list of poisons under the Insular enactment, and local chemists are notified accordingly.

Milk-testing Apparatus.

The Board of Agriculture have made arrangements with the National Physical Laboratory for the verification and stamping of the pipettes, measuring-glasses, and test-bottles used in the Babcock method of testing milk. Particulars of the regulations and fees for the examination of such apparatus as may be transmitted for the purpose of testing may be obtained on application to the director, National Physical Laboratory, Old Deer-park, Richmond, Surrey.

Birmingham Notes.

What with branch shops and company pharmacies, and oil and drug stores, Birmingham is becoming well served. Messrs. Boots have twelve shops, Messrs. Hedges have six, Messrs. Magors nine, and almost every pharmacist of note has his branch shop.

The Leamington authorities have alighted upon a new source of saline water from a well at Jephson Gardens. This is considered a godsend to the place and its pharmacists, as it is hoped that its popularity will be the means of attracting more visitors to the town.

Medical men are gradually becoming alive to the importance, when they dispense their own medicines, of employing properly qualified and trained dispensers. These posts are often of service to Minor men who require time for study, for attendance is not required except for a couple of hours morning and evening. Advertisements for such men often appear, and one this week reads:—"Dispenser (married) wanted, age 25, to reside at branch, evening work only. Preference for men employed during day.—Dr. Smith, 110 Balsall Heath Road."

The Chemical Club had a meeting on Thursday evening (January 31) at the Woodman, when a paper on "Boiler-incrustations and Deincrustants" was read by Mr. Harry Silvester, public analyst of West Bromwich. It appears that many "deincrustants" are composed of sodium hydrate and spent tan liquors, and the majority are made to sell. Of chemicals which he had found in such liquids, Mr. Silvester enumerated sodium phosphate, hydrate carbonate, chloride, chromate, borate, silicate, tannate, and fluoride, and such substances as barium chloride and carbonate, calcium oxide, hydrate, acetate, and liquor calcis saccharatus; also such substances as glycerin, gelatin, tannin, catechu, oak, valonia, myrabolans, and finely divided charcoal. The most satisfactory of all is said by Mr. Lewes to be sodium fluoride, but its price is prohibitive. In the discussion it was stated that a whole dead pig was formerly used every six months in one Black Country works, and stable-manure and urine have been found effectual. Potatoes are also used, but in these cases the odours are objectionable. In the end it was agreed that the blank cheque is still waiting for the inventor to fill in who shall devise a perfect "deincrustant."

Henry Jennings, chemist and druggist, Hockley Hill, Birmingham, was summoned at the City Police Court, Birmingham, on February 6, for cruelty to a collie dog. The dog belonged to a Mrs. Gates, who took it to the defendant to have it destroyed. The defendant advertised in the newspapers "Dogs destroyed instantly; 1s. each," and Mrs. Gates thought it would be poisoned, but, instead, the defendant led it into the yard and shot at it with a revolver. The dog yelled and ran away, and when brought back afterwards was found to have been shot in the head above the left ear. Defendant's counsel urged that his client was a humane man, but unfortunately the revolver twice missed fire, and when at the third attempt the weapon went off the bullet did not go direct. Mr. Jennings himself stated that he had shot five or six dogs and some cats with revolvers. He had poisoned hundreds, but lately had observed that prussic acid was not always to be depended upon, as it caused terrible convulsions. He had no intention of causing the dog pain. The Magistrates were of opinion that shooting would be less painful than prussic acid, but in the present case the revolver was not properly used. They did not think there was intentional cruelty, and dismissed the summons.

Honouring our late Queen.

As a mark of their sorrow at the death of her Majesty the Queen, the students and staff of the Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy (Limited), sent a wreath to Windsor.

Amongst the memorials exhibited in Cardiff (writes our correspondent), one of the most effective was that in front of the shop of Mr. R. Drane, chemist, Queen Street. On a black shutter were the words, in silver, "Vale Victoria Mater Carissima," with the sceptre and crown inverted at the base. Inside the window were two wreaths of everlasting flowers, one of them having beneath it the words "The Silver Cord is Loosed," and the other "The Golden Bowl is Broken."

At the suggestion of Mr. F. M. Fisk, manager of Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. in London, the citizens of Queen Victoria Street, E.C., subscribed for a floral emblem for the obsequies of our late Queen, whose name is so closely associated with the most important modern street in the City of London. The emblem took the form of a royal standard, made of scarlet geraniums, violets, and acacia flowers, the flag being 5 feet long by 3 feet deep, and placed at half-mast on a pole 9 feet long. To this very handsome and striking floral design there was attached an ivory tablet bearing the engraved inscription "A Token of Gratitude and Reverence." The emblem was placed in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on Friday evening, February 1, by Mr. W. B. Conyngham, L.P.S.I., of Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co.'s staff, special permission having been obtained from Lord Esher. The manager of Messrs. T. B. Browne (Limited), advertising-agents, and Mr. Pick (furrier), were also associated with Mr. F. M. Fisk in arranging the matter.

Ratepayers not to Pay.

On February 4 the audit of the accounts of the Birkenhead Guardians was completed by the Local Government Board auditor, who had announced his intention of disallowing 237l. 13s. 4d., the legal expenses incurred by the Board in the action brought by Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., of Liverpool, against Dr. Martin. At a meeting of Guardians held on that date, the auditor (Mr. C. F. Jordison) reviewed the facts of the case as already published in our columns. In the course of his remarks on the dismissal of Mr. Preece (the dispenser), Mr. Jordison said:—"Unfortunately, and without any reason as far as he could see, Messrs. Evans, Son & Co. were alluded to, and Dr. Martin's speech was entirely on the question of prices, which was a question which did not concern the dispenser at all. On December 12 the Guardians had decided to defend the action. When Mr. Preece was appointed dispenser he was appointed under an order of the Local Government Board, which strictly defined his duties. According to the order the checking of the invoices and prices was no part of his duty. The fact that he had not checked certain accounts almost led to his being dismissed. He was called upon to resign, and might eventually have been dismissed if he (the auditor) had not pointed out that the prices of drugs, &c., and the checking of accounts was not part of his duties. That was the duty of the clerk, but

it was possible for one colleague to assist another. It may have been customary for the dispenser to check the prices, &c., but it could not be imposed on him as a duty. Mr. Mersy Jones said it had been the custom for a long time for Mr. Preece to check the invoices, and Mr. Preece himself considered it his duty, for he stated so in his letter to the Local Government Board. Dr. Martin had undertaken, on behalf of the Guardians, the duty of examining and reporting on the accounts, and because they had tried to do their duty to the ratepayers it appeared the Guardians were mulcted in a surcharge. Mr. Davies asked if it was expected that the clerk, who had no knowledge of chemistry, was to examine the invoices. The auditor said that was a matter for arrangement between the clerk and the dispenser. Mr. Davies asked whether the auditor had considered the remarks of Justice Grantham on the case, in which he said the Guardians were justified in appointing Dr. Martin to make an investigation, but the auditor said he could not express any opinion as to the Judge's decision. It was undesirable when members of public bodies, either accidentally or designedly, made remarks which were afterwards dealt with as slanderous, that the case should be defended at the cost of the ratepayers.

Royal Institution.

A general meeting of the members of the Royal Institution was held on February 4, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Treasurer and Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. J. Boldero, Mr. J. Y. Buchanan, Mr. A. Lytleton, Mr. J. Macfadyen, Mr. A. W. Reed, Major J. M. Rogers, Mr. D. Weston, and Dr. T. T. Whipham, were elected members. The special thanks of the members were returned to Sir Frederick Abel, Bart., K.C.B., for his donation of 50%, and to Professor Dewar for his donation of 50%, to the fund for the Promotion of Experimental Research at Low Temperatures.

No Medicinal Virtue.

Mrs. Fisher stated at Bethnal Green Coroner's Court on January 29 that she had given her child saffron and brandy as a remedy for measles. The child died in a fit following measles. Dr. Wynn Westcott advised the mother and another witness to go home and tell their neighbours that there was absolutely no virtue in saffron as a medicine. If they could make a dozen people believe that before going to bed, they would have done a "national service," as the idea was very prevalent that it was a medicine.

Fires.

The annual report of the chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, just issued, states that in the past year 23 fires occurred on the premises of chemists (including all places in which laboratories are used). Of these 21 were slight and 2 serious. The causes were as follows:—Bi-sulphide of carbon, 1; oil boiling over, 1; children playing with lucifers, 1; ether, 1; curtains coming in contact with gas-light, 1; goods coming in contact with gaslight, 1; overheating of gas-stove, 1; hot ashes, 1; light thrown down, 2; light thrown from street, 1; overheating of still, 1; vapour of spirit coming in contact with flame, 1; unknown, 10. Four fires occurred on the premises of wholesale druggists, three of which were serious. The cause was not traced in any case.

The Work Increasing.

At a meeting of the London County Council on February 5, it was reported that the chemist had said the growth of the work of his department necessitated the employment of an additional chemical-assistant. The Council authorised the employment of an additional assistant in the second class, at a commencing salary of 150% a year.

Trade Protection.

From the annual report of the London Association for the Protection of Trade, we gather that 612 members have been elected during the past year. In the inquiry department an increased number of searches are recorded, while in the department devoted to the recovery of debts much good work appears to have been done. The number of accounts applied for was 41,891, representing 218,618%, of which 130,775% was recovered. Through the gratuitous advice given on matters

connected with trading operations by the solicitors of the association, nearly 35,000% out of a total of 47,000% claimed by members has been recovered through the Courts. Besides home inquiries, the association has a foreign and colonial department for inquiries and debt collections abroad, which is growing in usefulness. The London Association is but one of eighty similar societies throughout the kingdom, possessing an aggregate membership of between 40,000 and 50,000.

Not the Medicine.

At an inquest held at Butt Lane on January 29, on the body of a woman named Keeling, it was stated that deceased, who had recently been confined, was attended by a certified midwife. Deceased at first appeared to be going on all right, but in a few days became worse, although refusing to have a doctor. Her husband went to Mr. E. H. Griffiths, chemist, Kidsgrove, who gave him some medicine. A bottle produced in court contained what the husband stated was part of the third bottle of medicine he had received from the chemist. When giving him the third bottle, Mr. Griffiths said if his wife did not improve he had better call in a doctor. Dr. Steele deposed that when he was called in he found Mrs. Keeling unconscious, and she died the same night from puerperal fever. The Coroner (pointing to the medicine): What do you think this stuff is? Doctor: I don't know what it is; but I advised them to keep the bottle and contents. A case like this requires skilled scientific treatment. Medicine like this does no good, though it would probably do no harm. If the woman had had skilled help in time, the chances are she would be alive now. Death from puerperal fever was the verdict.

Poisonings of the Week.

The number of fatalities from poisoning reported during the past week have been fewer than usual, ten being the total. Only in two cases were unscheduled poisons the medium. At Acomb a young married woman drank four ounces of a solution of subacetate of lead (double B.P. strength) which had been used as a lotion for her arm. A four-year-old child at Blaengarw got hold of a bottle containing spirit of camphor, drank some of the liquid, and died within twenty-four hours. The scheduled poisons employed were laudanum (in three cases), carbolic acid (also in three cases), and arsenic twice, one being in a beer medium.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Personalities.

Sir Robert Jackson, Governor of the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, has been re-elected Chairman of the Pembroke Urban District Council.

Sir Edward M. Hodgson, M.P.S.I., Dublin, has been re-elected Chairman of the Rathmines and Rathgar Urban District Council.

The retirement of Sir Thomas W. Robinson, M.P.S.I., on Monday last, from the chairmanship of the Kingstown Urban Council was made the occasion of some very flattering remarks by members. A vote of thanks was accorded to him for his past services. Sir Thomas replied in felicitous terms.

Drug-auction.

At Dublin last week, Jackson's pharmacy, Stephen's Green, was sold off by public auction. The stock was put up in lots to suit the general public, and the prescription-books were knocked down to Mr. W. B. Murray, L.P.S.I., a next-door neighbour.

Aërated-water Exports.

The Belfast Harbour Commissioners report that during the quarter ended December 31 last the exports of aërated waters decreased from 2,307 tons, the figures for the corresponding period of 1899, to 2,288 tons, the total for the period under review.

Carbolic Acid for Whisky.

A poisoning fatality occurred during the week at Boherbue, co. Cork, the victim being Mrs. Buckley, a farmer's wife, who drank a quantity of carbolic-acid solution in mistake for whisky. A child who drank a small quantity at the same time had a narrow escape of death.

Poisoned Meat.

At Ballingarry (co. Limerick) Petty Sessions, Patrick Meade was prosecuted for laying poisoned meat at the Ballingarry fox-covert. Dr. Clapper found the meat strongly impregnated with arsenic. Meade was sent to prison for two months, failing to pay a fine of 5*l*.

The Croom Drug-account.

On January 30 Messrs. Leslie & Co., Dublin, obtained in the King's Bench Division, Dublin, an order against the Guardians of Croom Union for discovery of documents. The action is for 40*l*. for drugs and medicines supplied by plaintiffs. The defendants have paid 13*l*. into court and also counterclaimed.

Company Dividend.

The directors of Donohoe (Limited), druggists, &c., Ennis-cortly, have declared a dividend on the ordinary and preference shares of the company at the rate of 8 and 6 per cent. per annum respectively. The net profit for the year was 3,800*l*.; 1,000*l*. has been placed to reserve, and 2,934*l*. carried forward.

The Tullamore Case.

In some of the newspaper reports of the case brought against Messrs. P. & H. Egan, of Tullamore, by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland it is erroneously stated that "the defendants had been previously registered, but last year omitted to renew." Mr. A. T. Ferrall, the Registrar, has written pointing out that the defendants never were registered, neither had any of them nor any of their assistants ever passed or presented themselves for any examination which would qualify them to sell poisons with safety to the public.

The Chemist and the Painter.

In the Dublin Probate Court last week, a Bedford house-painter, named Marks, brought an action to recover 160*l*. 16*s*. 10*d*. from Mr. Henry Pring, manager for Messrs. Gratton & Co., of Belfast, for painting and papering his house. Plaintiff said defendant had paid 125*l*. on account of the work as it proceeded, and at the close the plaintiff finished the contract in full for 294*l*. 19*s*. 10*d*., less the 125*l*. received. The defendant contended that the plaintiff undertook to do the entire work for 125*l*., but did some extra work which brought the cost up to 200*l*. The jury found for the defendant, holding that 75*l*. lodged in court was more than plaintiff was entitled to.

Personation at Examinations.

At the Dublin Police Court on February 1, Joseph Haddock, aged 27, was charged on remand with having unlawfully personated two youths named Robert F. Cooper and Alexander Fyffe, the latter a chemist's assistant, at the conjoint examinations of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, held in March and September. The accused was arrested at 173 Lodge Road, Winson Green, Birmingham. At previous inquiries before the Court an examiner of the College of Surgeons described the procedure of the examinations, and showed how the fraud was committed. Haddock entered for each examination, and using his pupil's name, got very high marks, while the pupil, posing as Haddock, was badly "plucked." Evidence was given to show that "cogging" and "cribbing" obtained generally at the examination. Alexander Fyffe, one of the pupils, was examined, and admitted that Haddock was to get 5*l*. if witness passed the Preliminary examination of the College of Surgeons. He confessed the whole fraud in open court, and admitted that practically all his papers were done by Haddock. Cooper similarly confessed, and in the course of the evidence it was shown that the general system of the examination was very loose. Haddock evaded recognition at the examinations by dyeing his hair and shaving off his moustache. On one occasion he got 20*l*. for "assisting" a candidate. Defendant was sent for trial at the City Com-

mission, bail being accepted for his appearance. In connection with these cases it is stated that the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland has a similar cause of complaint against Haddock, who is connected with the drug-trade in England.

Contractor Condemned.

Mr. P. N. White, chemist, Sligo, is the medical contractor to the Ballymahon (co. Westmeath) Union, and at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians a letter from the Local Government Board referring to a communication the Board had received from Mr. White regarding the supply of linimentum saponis. Mr. White had practically admitted that the liniment was made with methylated spirit, and that most of the liniments supplied by him were methylated, but said that he was not aware he was acting improperly. The L.G.B. considered that a gross deception had been practised by Mr. White, and asked for the opinion of the Guardians on the matter. A copy of a letter which the Local Government Board had sent to Mr. White was enclosed, in which complaint was made about tincture of cinchona supplied by Mr. White to the Ballymahon Guardians, which the analyst found to be 8 per cent. deficient in spirit. They further state that they have received unfavourable reports from the analyst with respect to drugs supplied to Ballymahon, Belmullet, Ballidrobe, and Manorhamilton Unions, and they formally warned him that in the event of further complaints with regard to the quality of his drugs the Board will refuse recouments to any Board of Guardians employing him as drug-contractor. The Guardians discussed the letters and ultimately decided to inform the L.G.B. that there would probably be no more medicines required from the contractor, as his contract expires in March next.

At the same meeting a letter was read from Mr. White enclosing a communication from Messrs. Baiss Brothers & Stevenson (Limited), of London, showing that a sample of extract of ergot condemned by the analyst was of full B.P. strength. The letter was marked "read."

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Personal.

Mr. Hugh E. Ellis, Ph.C., head-master of the Pharmaceutical Department at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, has, on the advice of his medical attendant, been obliged to resign.

A Juvenile Burglar.

John Henry Cairnie (14) was ordered to receive eight strokes of the birch-rod or the alternative of ten days' imprisonment by the Aberdeen Sheriff, on February 4, for breaking into the shop of his employer, Mr. R. Urquhart, chemist, St. Nicholas Street, Aberdeen. Cairnie had broken into the shop on four occasions, and had stolen in all about 1*l*. 10*s*. in money.

Not Proven.

The trial of Frank Roberts, described as a chemist, of Whiston Street, Derby, for alleged fire-raising, took place before the Sheriff and jury at Cupar on February 4. Evidence was called with a view to showing that accused had attempted to set fire to the dwelling-house of his grandmother in South Union Street, Cupar, with intent to defraud the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, but after a lengthy hearing the jury, by a majority of 11 to 4, found the charge not proven.

Business Change.

Mr. William Allan, pharmaceutical chemist, Dumfries, has taken his son, Mr. Richard Birrell Carruthers Allan, chemist and druggist, into partnership, and the business at 121 High Street, will henceforth be carried on under the title of "William Allan & Son." Mr. R. B. C. Allan is a nephew of the late Mr. R. B. Carruthers, with whom Mr. W. Allan was in partnership for so many years (the firm being well known as

Carruthers & Allan), and it is somewhat of a coincidence that Mr. Allan's second partnership should be with his former partner's namesake.

Edinburgh Chemists' Golf Club.

The annual general meeting was held at 36 York Place on January 31, at 9 P.M., Mr. George Robertson in the chair. The treasurer's balance-sheet and Secretary's report showed the club to be in a sound condition. The following office-bearers were elected for the year:—Hon. President, Mr. T. Connell Smith; Captain, Mr. N. C. Baker; Vice-Captain, Mr. C. F. Henry; Hon. Secretary, Mr. James Stott; Ass. Secretary, Mr. J. G. Robb; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. B. Cowie; Committee, Messrs. H. D. Alexander, A. J. Dey, A. C. Kirkpatrick, J. C. Laird, Wm. Lyon, and Geo. Robertson. Eight new members were elected, and 17. 1s. was voted to the Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund.

Small-pox in Glasgow.

The returns show rather worse this week, and at the time of writing upwards of 440 patients are in the hospital, while a considerable number of deaths has had to be recorded. Re-vaccination is now proceeding very generally in all parts of the City. The estimate mentioned in this column last week of 20,000 tubes of lymph having been sold is far short of the actual figures. One firm alone supplied 20,000 tubes last week, and the sale is going on as rapidly as ever this week. There cannot have been fewer than 50,000 tubes used since the beginning of the year. It is almost sad to see the way in which free vaccination is being conducted at present. In the poorer districts of the City the crowds round the doors of the surgeries remind one of a popular theatre, hundreds sometimes waiting their turn. There is a story going the round of one vaccinator who claims that he can vaccinate three per minute. Considering that the Corporation supplies lymph free and allows 1s. 6d. per head for all re-vaccinations, it will be seen that this operator will be pocketing a tidy sum every evening.

South African News.

(From our Colonial Correspondents.)

KIMBERLEY NEWS.—Passenger traffic is now closed to the north and south of Kimberley, the lines being used by the military. Traders, however, manage to get goods through occasionally. Mining prospectors are mostly busy on active service, and but a comparatively small amount of assaying and analytical work fall to the chemist's lot at present. In spite of these drawbacks business is fairly good in the drug-trade.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. H. M. Elgar, on closing his connection with the firm of Messrs. P. J. Petersen & Co., Cape Town, received a handsome gift in the form of a traveller's writing-case from his late associates in business. Mr. Elgar has been for some considerable time with Messrs. Petersen, and leaves with the good wishes of all. Mr. J. H. Millar, on behalf of the employees, made the presentation. Mr. Elgar is now on a visit to Ceylon and India.

CAPE TOWN PHARMACY VOLUNTEERS.—Amongst the Volunteers forming the Cape Town Guard the local drug-trade is well to the front. The masters have offered every encouragement to any of the various staffs desiring to join, by granting the necessary time off for drill; and should any be required for active service their places will be kept open. Up to the time of last mail the total number enrolled was fifty-seven. Of this total Messrs. Heynes, Matthews & Co. are represented by twenty-two men, and Messrs. P. J. Petersen & Co. by twenty men, headed by Mr. Henry Evans, the manager, who has been elected lieutenant. In this section is Mr. Wood, who was a member of the Mafeking defence force, and Mr. W. S. Hall, a former trooper in Kitchener's Horse, who has already served fourteen months at the front with that famous corps. Mr. Scott Kincaid, also a member of the same staff, has been elected Sergeant-Instructor to No. 2 Section Caledonian Company of the Town Guard by reason of his previous experience as a Volunteer at home. Mr. A. H. Matthews, of Heynes, Matthews & Co., has also joined with his men.

French News.

LEGION OF HONOUR.—The decoration of Knight of the Legion of Honour has been conferred on Mr. George Roberts, Paris agent of Messrs. Gray, Laurier & Co., export merchants London, of which firm he was until recently a partner.

FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH PHARMACY STUDENTS.—At the annual meeting held on Monday, February 4, in the large amphitheatre of the Paris School of Pharmacy at 8 P.M., there was a good attendance, and the Secretary's report showed that useful work on behalf of the students has been accomplished during the past year. This Association is quite distinct from that of pharmacists assistants.

BUSINESS ON THE RIVIERA.—A correspondent informs us that business is naturally not very brisk, although it was up to the average before the news of the Queen's death arrived. The Niçois are of opinion that the absence of her Majesty will shorten the season by at least a month, as her visit was always a late one, and made the season longer than usual. On the other hand it is possible that many English visitors will go south after the obsequies in England are concluded.

THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN has brought out many signs of sympathy on the Riviera. The late Mr. Ginner's pharmacy at Cannes had a crape bow over the door. Mr. Nicholls, chemist to the Queen at Nice, had the Royal Arms over his door entirely enveloped in crape, and flags with crape at each side of the shop front. Numerous other tokens were visible at Nice. At Cannes, Mentone, and San Remo (Italy) the main street is one long line of shops with flags either at half-mast or draped in crape, as French or English ideas prevail.

FRENCH BANKRUPTCY LAW.—A circular has been issued by the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris calling attention to this subject. Every person trading in France is bound to keep a clear and regular account of all that he receives or pays every day, all acceptances or endorsement of bills, and, indeed, all his business transactions of every kind, with a monthly statement of the amount used for household expenses. All letters received and sent must be filed or copied, and he must every year prepare a formally signed balance-sheet. Only if the books are so kept will they be admitted as evidence in any court, and should the trader become insolvent, with his book-keeping irregular and his balance incorrect, even although there may be no fraud, he has a fair chance of going to gaol for a period of not less than one month or more than two years.

PARIS SOCIETY OF PHARMACY.—In the course of his speech at the recent Annual General Meeting of this Society, the President, M. Yvon, gave a short summary of the scientific progress of the past century. Quoting Wurtz's statement that chemistry is a French science, M. Yvon went on to say that it commenced as a pharmaceutical science and remained so for many long years. Pharmacists have a right to be proud of the important part played by pharmacy in chemical discoveries, and as the Paris Society of Pharmacy will celebrate its centenary in 1903, he claimed for it an important part in the scientific progress of the past hundred years. He recalled the fact that in 1851 Pasteur took part in a competition for one of the annual prizes, amounting to 1,500f. (60l.), offered by the society. The famous chemist carried off the prize, and devoted part of the amount to purchasing instruments for the chemical laboratory of the Strasburg Faculty of Sciences, where he was Professor of Chemistry. It will always be a source of pride to the Society to have awarded a prize to Pasteur at a time when it assisted him in furthering his researches. The report for the past year by M. A. Barillé, the Secretary for the year, was published a few days ago. It contains a review of the principal scientific papers read before the Society, which have been duly recorded in the *C. & D.*, during the past year. M. Barillé recalls the fact that in 1900 the Society suffered very severely by the death of several of its most distinguished members, including MM. Planchon, Beauregard, Milne, Edwards, and Sarradin. Referring to the leading part taken by the Society in the International Congress of Pharmacy, the Secretary mentioned that it was an exceptional opportunity for French and foreign pharmacists to meet on a friendly footing.

Australasian News.

Chiefly from "The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia,"
December 1, 1900. 6d. per copy, post free.

EUCALYPTUS-DISTILLING.—According to the report of the Chief Inspector of Distilleries in South Australia, there are fourteen eucalyptus-oil distilling licences in force in that colony. Thirteen licences are on Kangaroo Island, the other at Punyelroo. The value of oil exported increased from 1,131*l.* in 1892 to 2,224*l.* in 1899.

A PERFUME-FARM AND FACTORY have been established at the Collier River, Western Australia. Mr. Curtin has established a distilling-plant for the purpose of dealing with native plants, beginning with the wild verbenia. He has several acres of lavender planted, but means to extend this to twenty or thirty acres. The factory was declared open by Sir John Forrest on November 24.

THE REVENUE of the N.Z. Pharmacy Board has decreased so much that it will soon be impossible, unless subsidised by the Government, to carry out the work of the Board. The Government reduced the examination-fees from 3*l.* 3*s.* to 3*s.*, but did not provide any other source of income, with the consequence that the funds are going out faster than they come in.

RECIPROCITY.—There has not been much progress made with the reciprocity question since we last referred to it (*C. & D.*, January 12, page 42). The *C.D.A.* summarises the doings of the month as follows:—

Queensland will be represented at any conference attended by representatives of the majority of the colonies if the questions for decision are left over.

The South Australian Board reports against a common examination, but in favour of the recognition of existing registers, of a conference, and of gradual equalisation of examination by mutual agreement.

The Pharmacy Board of New South Wales addressed a communication to the various Pharmacy Boards that (1) it accepts recognition of all on registers, but (2) does not approve of a common examination, and (3) proposes an early conference.

POISONS INSPECTOR.—The report of the inspector appointed by the New South Wales Pharmacy Board was read at the December meeting. In every case where legal proceedings were instituted against persons selling poisons without licence the prosecutions were successful, but owing to the small amount recovered in fines the inspector was 7*l.* 10*s.* out of pocket. The fact that the inspector was to receive half the fine seems to have influenced the Magistrates in inflicting small fines. The Board are going to discuss alternative methods of remunerating the inspector with a view to improving the present method.

DENTAL DIFFICULTIES.—The new Dental Board of New South Wales, called into being by the passage of the Dentists Act, held its first meeting on December 19. The Act provides that all persons practising as dentists who have claims to registration must be registered by the Dental Board on or before January 1, 1901, and any dentist neglecting to be so registered, who still continues to practise, is liable to a penalty of 20*l.* The awkward part is that the Board has only eight clear days to frame regulations and go into the histories and qualifications of the various claimants for registration. It is estimated that between 300 and 400 applications for registration have been made.

PHARMACISTS IN N.S.W.—An analysis of the New South Wales register shows that on December 31, 1900, there would be on the register five registered men under Section *b*—*i.e.*, having been assistants before the passing of the Poisons Act, 1876; 94 registered under Section *c*, having been in business on their own account before the passing of the Pharmacy Act; 315 registered under Section *d*, having been apprentices or assistants before the passing of the Pharmacy Act; and 365 registered under Section *f*, having been registered under the Poisons Act. These give a total of 779 registered pharmacists. The number registered under Section *d* much exceeds the original estimate.

East Indian News.

BENGAL OPIUM-REVENUE.—The opium-returns in Bengal to the end of December totalled 6,08,89,520*r.*, or 66,89,520*r.* above estimate—a very welcome addition to Government's receipts.

BOMBAY BUSINESS.—Previous to the last mail leaving there had been much activity in fever and cough remedies as a result of the extraordinary cold weather Bombay has been experiencing. The recrudescence of plague was also beginning to be a factor in the demand for disinfectants of all descriptions.

THE SANDAL-WOOD SALES at Chikmagalur (Mysore Presidency), held on December 8, attracted bidders from Bombay and Karachi, and the competition was rather keen. The total quantity exposed for sale (150 tons) was sold, and fetched 79,284*r.* or 528*r.* per ton. Messrs. Volkart Brothers, of Tellicherry, purchased the major portion for 57,276*r.*

BOMBAY TRADE WITH ABYSSINIA.—During 1899-1900 Abyssinia is credited with imports from Europe, America, and India of the value of over a quarter of a million sterling, the United Kingdom and India supplying nearly half that total. The exports of gold, coffee, eivet, ivory, and salt are valued at a slightly smaller sum. According to the British Agent at Adis Abeba the standard of comfort in Abyssinia is rising, and the money formerly put into a hole in the ground is being used to purchase the minor luxuries of the West.

COCAINE HABIT IN BENGAL.—The unrestricted sale of cocaine in Calcutta as a form of intoxicant has led the Government of Bengal to put a stop to the unlicensed sale of this drug. In Bhagalpur, Monghyr, and other places in Bengal the cocaine habit was growing to an alarming extent even among mere schoolboys. The police in Calcutta instituted a test prosecution with the result that the Court imposed a nominal fine, coupled with a warning. The drug seems to have been placed within the reach of the public by the betel-sellers in the bazaars and other unauthorised vendors.

EXCISE IN BURMA.—The report of the Excise Department in Burma for 1899-1900 says that the gross revenue rose to 53,10,221*l.*, of which liquor contributed 49.14 per cent., and opium, with other drugs, 50.85 per cent. The number of opium-licences fell by 31, from 237 to 236. It is still doubtful, says the *Rangoon Gazette*, whether the opium and excise law is administered with a proper degree of vigour. The number of offences detected and of arrests made was less than in the previous year, and seizures of opium and ganja fell considerably. Two applications to export Yunnan opium through Burma to China were refused, and since the close of the year simple rules restricting the possession and cultivation of opium have been sanctioned for some of the Southern Shan States. Smuggling is still rife, and the issues of Government opium are quite insufficient to meet the local consumption.

ACETYLENE-GAS ORDER.—The Government of India has issued the following order: "In exercise of the power conferred by Section 17 of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884, the Governor-General in Council is pleased hereby to declare that acetylene, when in admixture with atmospheric air or with oxygen gas in whatever proportion and at whatever pressure, and whether or not in admixture with other substances, shall be deemed to be an explosive within the meaning of the said Act." The manufacture, possession, or importation of such acetylene is prohibited, but it is provided that nothing in the notification shall apply to acetylene in admixture with air when such admixture takes place only in a burner or contrivance in which the mixture is intended to be burnt or to an admixture of acetylene and air which may unavoidably occur in the first use or recharging of an apparatus properly designed and constructed with a view to the production of pure acetylene.

"TWO-PENNYWORTH dill water; how much to be used with whisky for a man?" was the request recently received by Messrs. Spong & Son, of Biggleswade.

American Notes.

THE LATEST FIRE.—As briefly stated in our issue of last week (page 232), the offices and warehouse of Messrs. Lehn & Fink, wholesale druggists, William Street, New York, have been destroyed by fire, damage estimated at \$200,000 being done. The outbreak is said to have originated through the firing of a pan of alcohol, and the rapidity with which it spread caused considerable alarm in the neighbourhood. Twenty-one fire-engines were quickly in attendance, and a repetition of the Tarrant disaster was feared, but only one fireman (who fell from a wall) was seriously injured, and no explosion of any moment occurred. Besides the damage to Messrs. Lehn & Fink's premises, a firm of gum-dealers, a firm of printers, and the Upjohn Pill Company in adjoining buildings suffered considerable damage from smoke and water.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Drug-trade Section of the New York Board of Trade was held on January 17 at the rooms of the Drug Club. In the absence of both the chairman and the vice-chairman Mr. John H. Stallman (of the Stallman & Fulton Company) presided. Mr. T. F. Main, chairman of the Committee on Legislation, reviewed the work of the committee during the past year, mentioning in particular the success of the committee's efforts in defeating the so-called Poison-bottle Bill in the last Legislature. Mr. Stallman, as Chairman of the Joint Committee of Jobbing Druggists and of the importers of drugs and chemicals, reported regarding the importation of asafetida. Mr. A. B. Rogers, chairman of the Committee on Storage of Drugs and Chemicals, said his committee has in preparation a Bill regarding the matter, which is to be introduced in the Legislature. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Chairman, Colonel E. W. Fitch (Parke, Davis & Co.); vice-chairman, Mr. Jesse L. Hopkins (J. L. Hopkins & Co.); treasurer, Mr. W. D. Faris (H. J. Baker & Brother); director, Mr. John McKesson (McKesson & Robbins), representing the section in the Board of Trade and Transportation.

CONTRA-PRESCRIBING.—At a meeting of the Chairmen of the Legislative Committees of local pharmaceutical organisations held in New York on January 24, it was decided to oppose three Bills at present before the Legislature. One is Assemblyman Bell's Bill against prescribing, the second is a Bill amending the Greater New York charter which makes provision for a Board of Pharmacy distinct from the General State Board of Pharmacy, and the other is a Bill which aims, among other things, to reorganise the Hospital Corps of the State Militia. Assemblyman Bell's Bill is the most interesting and far-reaching. It enacts that

any person shall be regarded as practising medicine within the meaning of this Act who shall prescribe, direct, recommend, or advise for the use of any other person any remedy or agent whatsoever, whether with or without the use of any medicine, drug, instrument, or other appliance, for the treatment, relief, or cure of any wound, fracture, or bodily injury, infirmity, physical or mental, or other defect or disease.

This sweeping proposal will not, it is kindly stated, prohibit emergency aid or the administration of family remedies. Nor will it apply to Army or Navy medical officers, to dentists, or any manufacturer of artificial eyes, limbs, or orthopaedic instruments or trusses in fitting such instruments on persons in need thereof when such artificial eyes, limbs, or orthopaedic instruments or trusses are prescribed by lawfully qualified physicians. Duly qualified physicians are of course exempted, but

this article shall be construed to repeal all Acts or parts of Acts authorising conferment of any degree in medicine *causa honoris* or *ad eundem*, or otherwise, than on students duly graduated after satisfactory completion of a preliminary and medical course of not less than that required by this article, as a condition of licence.

The Medical Society of the State of New York is strongly in favour of the Bill, which is, they explain, calculated to put a stop to quackery and charlatanism in medicine.

Colonial and Foreign News.

ASIATIC EXPORT BUREAU IN ST. PETERSBURG.—On January 1, a Russian-Asiatic export bureau was opened at St. Petersburg. Its aim is to facilitate trade with the Far East. This bureau has a capital of 2,000,000r. (220,000l.) and will have branch offices in Warsaw, Moscow, Odessa, Vladivostock, Chabarofsk, and Tschita.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.—Professor Löffler, of Greifswald, has for the last few years been investigating this disease at the hygiene institute there, and has now been successful in producing a serum which is said will cure the disease in sheep and pigs. The Höchst Colour-works (Meister, Lucius & Brüning) are to manufacture it commercially.

COPPER SULPHATE IN GREECE.—A Bill has recently been passed in the Greek Chamber effecting certain changes in the Customs tariff with a view to facilitating the importation of materials for preparations used in connection with the "peronosporus," the chief point about which is that "sulphate of copper, as well as chemical preparations of sulphate of copper mixed with other materials employed against 'peronosporus,' will be exempt from import-duty." Sulphate of copper was formerly dutiable at 5 drachmae per 100 okes.

HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACOPŒIA.—The new "Pharmacopœia Homeopathica Polyglotta" by Dr. Willmar Schwabe, has now been published by the author under the title of the "Deutsches homöopathisches Arzneibuch." The work, which has been thoroughly remodelled, is divided into four parts. The first gives general instructions on the mode of preparing and testing homœopathic medicaments. The second enumerates and describes the medicaments most used, giving special directions for their preparation and testing. The third classifies the less-used preparations, and the whole concludes with a *résumé* of the scientific treatises on which the compilation is based.

NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL?—We reported in the *C. & D.* of July 7, 1900, that German aerated-water manufacturers had succeeded in getting the Coblenz and Cologne Courts to uphold their contention that Apollinaris water should be classed amongst the artificial waters, because it is charged with carbonic-acid gas by artificial means. The Apollinaris Company were ordered, under penalty of a fine, to forbear marking the water as natural carbonic-acid mineral water. The company accordingly appealed to the Imperial Court (Reichsgericht), which has sustained the decision of the Court below, deciding that natural waters which are treated by aëration before bottling must be regarded as artificial water.

WOMAN'S ADVANCE.—The Finnish Parliament has passed on to the Ministry a Bill giving women pharmacists the same rights as their colleagues in Russia—viz., to own or manage independently a pharmacy. The first lady Finn to pass her examination was in 1874. During the period between that year and 1897, thirty-nine ladies qualified, and in the latter year a Bill with the same object was rejected. Since then the number of ladies practising as pharmacists or assistants in Finland has risen to 59, these mostly being in small country places. The Bill is justified by "women assistants having proved as capable of executing the necessary manipulations and shown the same abilities as their male colleagues."

PHOSPHATE DISCOVERIES IN EGYPT.—According to the German Consul at Cairo discoveries of phosphate-deposits have recently been made in Egypt by geologists commissioned by the Government to make exhaustive investigations. It appears that, apart from deposits of minor importance, two phosphate-deposits of considerable extent and depth have been found which could be worked without great difficulty, one being situated in the desert, east of Kenah, near the great caravan-route leading thence to Kosseir, on the Red Sea, and the other in the Dakleh oasis in the Libyan desert. From both places transport to the Nile valley could be easily effected, especially in the case of Dakleh, which is only 275 kilometres (170 miles) distant. So far as samples have yet been analysed, phosphoric acid has been found in quantities corresponding to from 40 to 60 per cent. of phosphate of lime.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE first duty of the Council at its meeting on Wednesday was the passing of a condolatory resolution in regard to the death of her Majesty Queen Victoria. The resolution, which was carried in silence, is to be transmitted to the King through the Secretary of State. The death of Dr. Stevenson Macadam, an honorary member of the Society, was referred to, and a letter of condolence directed to be sent to his family. The names of the members of the Council who retire by rotation in May were announced. They are Messrs. Allen, Atkins, Corder, Johnston, Martindale, Newsholme, and Savory. The President referred to the Registrar's report on the membership of the Society as "not entirely satisfactory and somewhat disappointing," seeing that the net increase in membership in 1900 was only five. The first batch of certificates—16 in all—for the Entrance examination has been received by the Board of Examiners; the Vice-President referred to the certificates as showing an improvement of at least 50 per cent. on the old Preliminary examination. The gentleman whose M.A. certificate was refused by the Council as insufficient for the entrance certificate (*C. & D.*, January 26, page 132) has written thanking the Council for the concession they have made him in offering to accept his diploma if he passes in a modern language. The draft Pharmacy Bill was held over till an adjourned meeting next week, to allow of a conference between the Law and Parliamentary Committee and the English and Scottish lawyers to take place. A resolution was passed that the Council do not appeal in the Strachan case.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on February 6. There were present the President (Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme), Vice-President (Mr. C. B. Allen), Treasurer (Mr. Atkins), and Messrs. Carteighe, Cooper, Corder, Cross, Glyn-Jones, Harrington, Harrison, Hills, Martindale, Park, Savory, Southall, Storrar, Taylor, Wootton, and Young.

Dr. Symes wrote to say that as the result of an accident he was unable to travel.

DEATH OF THE QUEEN.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and at once the PRESIDENT rose and said it was his sad duty to refer to the death of her Most Gracious Majesty, their beloved Queen. As a body they had not been brought into close contact with her Majesty, except at the Diamond Jubilee, when the Jubilee medal was conferred on their President. They all admired the wisdom and tact of the Queen in giving freedom of action to her subjects. He hoped the reign of the present King and his Queen Consort, who had already reigned in the hearts of their subjects for years, would be as prosperous as was that of her late Majesty. The President then moved the following resolution:—

This Council desires to express on behalf of those practising pharmacy in Great Britain the feeling of profound grief, and the sense of personal bereavement, which have been experienced throughout the pharmaceutical calling on the demise of her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria. The pharmacists of Great Britain recall with grateful pride that the late William Allen, F.R.S., the first President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was honoured by many evidences of the personal esteem of her late Majesty, and one of the earliest official acts of sovereignty after her Majesty's accession was the granting of a Charter of Incorporation to the said Society, so that the laudable designs of the founders of the Society of promoting technical education in the branches of knowledge embraced by pharmacy might be carried into effect. During the whole period of the late long and glorious reign those institutions which, like the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, have been engaged in the work

of furthering scientific education, have ever been assured of the Royal sympathy and encouragement, and the vast progress which has been made in the nineteenth century in chemistry, pharmacy, and the allied sciences, will for all time be inseparably associated with the wise and beneficent rule of Queen Victoria. This Council tenders its respectful condolences to his Most Gracious Majesty the King, and desires to assure his Majesty of their loyal and dutiful attachment.

The VICE-PRESIDENT, in seconding the resolution, said it was one which every pharmacist would cordially endorse. During the past week they had gone through a period of quite unexampled mourning, and everyone felt that the loss of her Majesty was a personal one. They felt her Majesty stood to in the relationship of mother as well as Queen. In congratulating the King on his accession to the throne the Council could assure him that in the pharmacists of the country he would find some of the most loyal supporters among his subjects. It was a blessing that the new Sovereign had had such an excellent training, and he trusted that he would not fall short of the glorious example set him.

The motion was then put and carried in silence, all up-standing.

The corporate seal of the Society was ordered to be affixed to the resolution, which is to be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Department.

DEATH OF AN HONORARY MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT said since their last meeting they had lost a distinguished Scottish analyst and honorary member of the Society in the person of Dr. Stevenson Macadam. He was better known in Scotland than in England, although in England they were aware of some of the good work he had done in chemistry. Dr. Macadam was a keen angler, and in pursuit of his pastime met with the accident that led to his death.

A letter of condolence was ordered to be sent to the members of the family.

RETIRING COUNCILLORS.

The SECRETARY said that, in accordance with the powers conferred upon him, he submitted the list of members who retire from the Council by rotation in May. Messrs. Allen, Atkins, Corder, Johnstone, Martindale, Newsholme, and Savory.

ELECTIONS AND RESTORATIONS.

Several members (number not stated) were elected members of the Society. Amongst the names was that of J. E. Strachan, the successful pursuer in the case of Strachan v. the Pharmaceutical Society. The reading of the name was followed by a "hear, hear" from one of the councillors. Some ladies and gentlemen were elected student-associates; eight persons restored to their former position in the Society, and two restored to the register. Seven pharmaceutical chemists were granted their diplomas.

THE REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

Mr. BREMIDGE submitted his report of the position of the Society for the year 1900. This showed that during the year 29 persons were restored to membership of the Society, and 437 elected. At the end of 1899 the total membership was 5,462, and during last year 461 names were removed from the list through deaths, secessions, &c., so that the membership amounted to 5,467, besides "life compounders," who during the year had increased from 358 to 365. The number of student-associates fell from 884 to 796 so that the total adherents of the Society had decreased from 6,704 to 6,628.

The Examination-results came out as follows:—At the three sittings of the "First" examination 2,158 candidates were examined, and of these 1,023 passed, thus showing 52.59 per cent. of rejections. There were also accepted 194 certificates from other examining bodies, making the additions to the students' register 1,217 for the year. For the "Major" examination 96 candidates presented themselves before the Board for England and Wales, and of these 42 passed, the failures thus amounting to 56.25 per cent. In Edinburgh 5 candidates were examined and 2 passed. For the "Minor" 1,377 were examined in England, 363 passed, and the rejections thus amounted to 73.42 per cent. In Scotland 513 were examined, and 182 passed, so that the failures were 64.41 per cent. One "Modified" candidate was examined in England and passed.

The *Register of Chemists and Druggists* was increased during 1900 by 268, bringing the number up to 13,627, exclusive of pharmaceutical chemists. During the year 549 names of newly passed men were added, 25 names were restored, and 2 persons were registered as having been in business before August 1, 1868. From this total increase of 576 there had to be deducted 302 erasures through death, and 6 by the request of registered persons themselves, thus making the net increase 268.

The *Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists* contained 2,236 names on December 31, 1900, 44 having been added during the year, besides one pharmaceutical chemist who was restored to membership. At the end of 1899 the number on the register was 2,248. Pharmaceutical chemists are also included on the register of chemists and druggists, which therefore has a total of 15,863 names upon it.

The PRESIDENT, in moving that the report be received, said it was not entirely satisfactory. It was somewhat disappointing that the efforts of the Council to improve the condition of the associates by throwing open the doors of the Society and admitting them to the privileges and advantages of members had not been realised. Shortly after the amending Act was passed there was a considerable accession of members; in that year the number went up by a thousand, and it was thought that in 1900 it would have been more, instead of which the increase in membership had only been five. He hoped that when the local-organisation scheme was developed it would lead to another increase such as that which followed the passing of the amending Act. He pointed out the number of members of the Society was only a third of those following the trade. They had expected a diminution in the number of student-associates, and were prepared to see the number go down for a while until the new system was better known, when the number would go up again.

Mr. WOOTON inquired how many erasures of pharmaceutical chemists and chemists and druggists the Registrar had made as a consequence of his recent publication of names. He did not see any mention of the erasures on the report.

The REGISTRAR said he only published the names to inquire the addresses, with the consequence that 70 per cent. had sent their addresses. He proposed to deal with the others next month, but might make a final effort to find them first.

Mr. MARTINDALE said there was an increase on the register of 268 names, and although that would be diminished by further corrections, it showed that the calling was not falling off.

COMPETITION EXAMINERS.

Professor Harvey Gibson, Professor Stanley Kipping, and Mr. W. M. Holmes, were appointed as examiners to conduct the Council prize-competitions in April.

FINANCE.

The report of the Finance Committee was then read, it showed balances on the General fund account, 3,086*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; Benevolent Fund account, 367*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; Orphan-fund account, 299*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*; and submitted for payment from the General Fund account 1,717*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and from the Benevolent Fund 14*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*. The payments from the General Fund included 436*l.* for examination expenses, 516*l.* on behalf of the *Journal*, 260*l.* sundries, 32*l.* law expenses, 168*l.* taxes, gas, and electric power, and 300*l.* current expenses. The payment from the Benevolent Fund of 14*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* was for printing.

The PRESIDENT, in moving that the report be adopted, said it was satisfactory to be able to note that the subscriptions were coming in very well, and that the members understood that under the new scheme subscriptions were to be sent direct to the Society.

The TREASURER asked if the subscriptions were coming in well for the Benevolent Fund.

The PRESIDENT: Equally well.

The report was adopted.

BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Benevolent Fund was read in committee, after which

The VICE-PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the

report, said the grants made were two of 10*l.*, one of 13*l.*, and one of 20*l.*

The report was adopted.

LIBRARY REPORT.

The report of the Library, Museum, and House Committee was next read. It recommended that electric light be put in place of gas in the curator's room in the basement. Also that the stock of Hanbury catalogues be handed to the curator for distribution. The same committee, sitting as a Research Committee, received a report from Professors Collie and Greenish on the work being done in the research laboratory.

The PRESIDENT said the only point he desired to emphasise was the paragraph relating to the Hanbury catalogue. The catalogue was of great use to anyone who devoted himself to the study of drugs, and he desired it to be known that any member could have a copy on asking for it.

EXAMINATION MATTERS.

The report of the Board of Examiners on the examination held last month showed that in London 26 candidates presented themselves for the Major and 7 passed, in the Minor of 294 candidates 91 passed. In Scotland two Majors were examined, both failed, and of the 105 Minor candidates 46 passed. Sixteen certificates were received as entrance-examination certificates.

The VICE-PRESIDENT commented on the receipt of sixteen entrance certificates, as they were the first batch received under the new regulations. It was a happy augury for the Society that the first batch should be such a good collection of certificates. Several were matriculation certificates, and others second and first class certificates. Some of them were of great brilliancy; one he noticed was endorsed "first in all England in bookkeeping." The certificates accepted were at least 50 per cent. better than those required by the old examination.

The TREASURER said he desired to refer to the case of the gentleman who had applied for examination, and whose certificate was not accepted, although he had passed a distinguished examination in Scotland. As unfavourable comments had been made on the case outside the Council, he thought it best it should be made known that the gentleman accepts the situation.

The REGISTRAR said Mr. Atkins was doubtless referring to the case of Mr. Johnston, a graduate of Glasgow University. Mr. Johnston had thanked the Council for the concession it had made in offering to accept his diploma if a certificate for proficiency in a modern language were added.

Mr. WALTER HILLS said he was glad to think that now they had the opportunity of obtaining evidence of education in those who enter pharmacy. There was one aspect, however, which he should like to call attention to, and that was the diminished number of student-associates. Some thought it was inevitable under the new regulations, but he appealed to members who have any influence over the young men to see that not only did they pass the Entrance examination before apprenticeship, but also sent in their certificates and became connected with the Society early in life.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Secretary had made a *résumé* of the correspondence, which included resolutions from the Bradford and District Chemists' Association, the Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association, the Wrexham and District Chemists' Association, the Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society, the Barnsley and District Chemists' Association, the Dover Chemists' Association, the Workington Chemists' and Druggists' Association, the North-East Lancashire Association, the Wolverhampton and District Chemists' Association, and the Swansea and District Chemists' and Druggists' Association. Mr. Paterson, Aberdeen, sent a draft Consolidation Bill and suggestions to the Law and Parliamentary Committee. He also mentioned that the Council had been acting illegally in the matter of the election of officers since 1852. Mr. Pickering also wrote. The resolutions and letters were in reference to the Pharmacy Bill: some expressed approval and others disapproval of the entire or parts of the Bill. Many resolutions urged the Society to take up a test-case to settle the legality of companies calling themselves "chemists."

The whole batch was referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee.

The Local Government Board forwarded to the Council a copy of the circular sent to all town clerks and district councils in reference to sending out carbolic acid in accordance with the rules laid down in the Pharmacy Act.

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Association asked the Society to keep a watchful eye upon the proceedings of the Army Reform Committee, with a view to securing official recognition of the Society's qualification for dispenserships.

This letter was sent to the Dispensers' Committee.

INTERPRETING THE REGULATIONS.

The Local Government Board forwarded for the inspection of the Society a letter they had received from a medical officer of health. The letter stated that as carbolic acid was neither a liniment, embrocation, or lotion, as mentioned in the regulations, he did not consider it necessary to send it out in distinctive bottles, and that chemists and druggists as a trade did not so interpret the regulations.

The Secretary was instructed to tell the Board it was desirable to send out carbolic acid in special bottles, and that chemists so sold it.

PHARMACY BILL.

The PRESIDENT said that when the matter of the draft Pharmacy Bill was put on the agenda it was hoped that the committee would have had it ready for presentation to the Council in time for the meeting. It had, however, been found to be impracticable to have it ready in time. The Bill had been put into legal phraseology by the solicitors, but certain clauses were not quite acceptable to the Committee. It was proposed to have a conference of the London and Edinburgh solicitors with the Law and Parliamentary Committee to debate the matter. It was advisable that the conference be held to settle the points of difference between English and Scotch law. He therefore proposed that the meeting adjourn till next Wednesday to receive the report, which he hoped would then be ready.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: Need it be on Wednesday?

Mr. CARTEIGHE: It only needs a quorum, and there should not be any difficulty in getting one.

THE STRACHAN CASE.

The PRESIDENT then referred to the case of Strachan v. Pharmaceutical Society, which was heard at Edinburgh on January 26 and 27. The view of the Council had always been that candidates could not be held to come under By-law 23 if they had taken part of the examination. Mr. Strachan had raised the question of the applicability of the by-laws in his case when he was taken ill between the two dates of examination. The Society had agreed to submit the case to a court which could have no interest in the matter, to arbitration, in fact, and were prepared to abide by Lord Stormonth Darling's judgment. The judicial opinion did not appear to be quite conclusive, but they had no desire to put Mr. Strachan to further expense in the matter, and would abide by the judgment. His attention had been called to certain statements made in some periodicals which were as misleading as they were untrue, and an insult to the Council in that they implied the members were unfit to perform their duties. He did not feel called upon to defend the Council from attacks made upon it by periodicals whose interests were adverse to those of the Society, but he wished to make it clear that the Society had been forced into Court by Strachan. The Society took eminent opinion on the case, including that of the Lord Advocate, and he would call attention to the remarks of Lord Stormonth Darling in his summing up: "I have, I think, sufficiently indicated my view that, although the pursuer would not have been entitled to decree in terms of the declaratory conclusions of the summons if it had stood alone, there is no good reason against giving effect to it as ancillary to the petitory conclusion." The Council, the President repeated, were forced into Court by the opposition, and the matter being raised they were bound to defend their position. He moved that no appeal against the judgment of Lord Stormonth-Darling in the case of Strachan v. the Society be made.

Mr. HARRISON, Mr. GLYN-JONES, and Mr. CARTEIGHE did not think there was any need for a resolution.

The PRESIDENT replied that if the meeting did not think it necessary he would abide by the decision, but as he understood that Strachan was preparing for appeal he thought it best to have a resolution.

Mr. HARRISON said there would have had to be a special resolution of the Council if it had been decided to appeal.

Mr. STORRAR: Then it is not a fact that an appeal has been entered.

Mr. CARTEIGHE: All lawyers take the preliminary steps for appeal before they are definitely instructed.

Mr. GLYN-JONES: If a resolution is passed, it might be held to commit the whole Council to the opinions expressed by the President in his statement, whereas there are members whose views are not expressed by that statement.

The TREASURER: That is just what the President wants. I do not see where the risk or danger comes in. A vote of the Council would help the President.

The motion was put, and carried unanimously.

Mr. YOUNG: Do you, Mr. President, intend taking any notice of an absurd note that has been sent by Strachan's solicitors to every member of the Council?

The PRESIDENT: I did not intend to.

The public business here ended, the Council to adjourn till Wednesday.

Business Changes.

Notices are inserted free in this section if properly authenticated.

MR. WILLIAM H. PEACE, wholesale drug merchant and packer, is starting in business at 62 Oldham Road, Manchester.

MR. ALFRED PEEL, chemist and druggist, has opened the Brockwell Park Pharmacy in Half-moon Lane, Herne Hill, S.E.

MR. H. V. BAYNES, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business at 324 Caledonian Road, N., lately carried on by Mr. W. S. Lovegrove.

THE business of the late Mr. P. H. Watkins, chemist and druggist, North Finchley, has been closed owing to the death of the proprietor.

MR. G. S. BALL, pharmaceutical chemist, has disposed of the Central Pharmacy, Weston-super-Mare, to his late manager, Mr. Ernest Widgery, pharmaceutical chemist.

MR. C. H. FRYER, chemist and druggist, formerly of Lowestoft and Kensington, has taken over the business formerly carried on by Messrs. G. J. Smith & Co. (Limited), chemists, at 27 Union Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Personalities.

MR. A. PAIN, chemist, Cornhill, Ipswich, has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Ipswich School Board for the ensuing triennial term.

MR. H. E. GODDARD, chemist, of 17 Northgate Street, Yarmouth, has been appointed a sub-postmaster for the North End district of that town.

MR. R. R. HALLOWAY, B.Sc., son of Mr. John Halloway pharmaceutical chemist, Carlisle, has passed the examination for the degree of Ph.D. of the University of Heidelberg.

MR. PERCY BEAN, B.Sc., chemist and druggist, Blackburn, will give expert evidence on behalf of Messrs. R. Holden, (Limited) in the case of Holden v. Bostock now being heard at the Manchester Assizes.

MR. STANLEY COLIN MCKINNELL, son of Mr. W. McKinnell, the President of the Northampton and District Chemists' Association, has responded to the call for more recruits, and has joined the Royal Bucks Hussars contingent of the Imperial Yeomanry which will shortly proceed to the front.

THE January *Bookman* gives a portrait of John Uri Lloyd, "whose remarkable novel of Kentucky life, 'Stringtown on the Pike,' has been one of the great American successes of the year." Mr. Lloyd is a chemist at Cincinnati, and his researches on the active principles of American drugs are well known. His previous book success was "Etidorhpa."

Winter Session.

Notices of meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." If meetings are not attended by reporters, secretaries of associations would oblige by communicating with the Editor.

Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.

NORTHERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Society was held on February 1 at Garfield Chambers, Belfast. The President (Sir J. H. Haslett, M.P.) attended, but was unable to remain owing to indisposition. In his absence Mr. J. Frackelton presided.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. W. J. Rankin) submitted the annual report, which showed that the Society had ninety-five members—nine more than last year. The Treasurer's report showed a small balance. Reference was made in the report to the company-pharmacy clause in the Company Bill, and the stamp-trading system. The report recommended that the Government be urged to appoint a committee to determine standards of purity. The reports were adopted.

The election of officers and committee was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—Sir Jas. H. Haslett, M.P., being very wisely re-elected President, on the motion of Mr. S. GIBSON, seconded by the CHAIRMAN; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Thos. McMullan, W. Doig, S. Clotworthy, J. Hogg, W. Jamison, and J. Watson; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. Gibson; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. J. Rankin; committee, Messrs. S. Acheson, J. Brown, J. Carse, J. Campbell, R. Cambridge, J. Frackelton, W. J. Gibson, J. Gillespie, A. R. Hogg, S. Hill, W. Lytle, J. McClement, S. McDowell, T. W. Reynolds, J. Richardson, J. H. Shaw, S. Saffern, J. Walsh, R. A. Jamison, and J. A. McConkey; Hon. Solicitor, Mr. R. Diamond, Donegall Street.

On the motion of Mr. RANKIN a warm vote of thanks was accorded Mr. H. Renton for his services to the Society in the past. Reference was also made to this gentleman having recently resigned his position as Secretary of the Belfast Grocers' Association, and to the loss the Chemists' Society would sustain thereby. It was unanimously resolved to nominate him for election as an honorary member. Mr. RENTON acknowledged the compliment paid him.

It was also resolved to forward a letter of condolence to King Edward VII. on the death of Queen Victoria. The meeting afterwards adjourned.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association.

A PRIVATE meeting of the members of this Association was held on January 31, for the purpose of considering the

DRAFT PHARMACY BILL.

Mr. John Barclay, B.Sc. (the President) was in the chair, and the attendance included Messrs. A. Southall, A. W. Gerrard, J. Poole, C. Thompson, J. Wakefield, W. F. Southall, F. J. Richards, D. S. Robertson, F. H. Alcock, Pillsbury, Mackenzie, G. H. Brunt (Hon. Secretary). A number of letters of apology were announced. The PRESIDENT opened the meeting by moving a resolution of condolence with the King and the other members of the Royal Family in their, and the nation's, recent bereavement. Mr. J. WAKEFIELD seconded, and it was agreed to record the resolution on the minutes.

As reported in last week's *C. & D.*, the Council of the Association had prepared a resolution to be submitted to the meeting approving of the Pharmacy Bill drafted by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, but suggesting (1) that Clause 4 should be altered with a view of making it illegal for any corporate body to keep "open shop," unless at least one of the directors be a registered chemist; (2) that each "open shop" as registered according to Clause 5 shall be subject to an annual registration fee of 5s. This resolution however was withdrawn, and Mr. J. WAKEFIELD submitted the following in its place:—

That this meeting of the Midland Pharmaceutical Association approves of the proposed Pharmacy Bill as recently drafted and

amended by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, but suggests that each "open shop" as registered according to Clause 5, shall be subject to an annual registration fee of a reasonable amount.

Mr. Wakefield urged that they should support the Bill. It was very important that every director of a drug company should be a qualified man. He recalled their own career and the enormous amount of study they had put in in order to be entitled to qualify themselves to practise their profession. When they got through their studies and their examinations they were faced with a new method of pharmacy—the cash trade—and they had practically to remodel their whole business to meet the exigencies of the new development. Even after they had done that they were met with another difficulty in the shape of the introduction into the trade of an enormous amount of capital by persons not qualified as pharmacists. He did think, considering the difficulties of their training, their responsibilities to the public and to physicians, and the many stringent Acts of Parliament under which their business was carried on, that it was time they raised an agitation for "Pharmacy for Pharmacists." And they could not possibly attain their end unless they insisted that everyone occupying a responsible position with regard to pharmacy, whether as manager, director, or proprietor of a business, should be qualified according to law. Mr. Wakefield thought the Pharmaceutical Society should have power to enforce adequate penalties upon offenders, but Mr. A. SOUTHALL pointed out that the Society already possessed that power under the Charter.

Mr. J. POOLE, in seconding the resolution, spoke of the great difficulty in getting anything like unanimity amongst chemists with reference to the Pharmacy Bill. It must, to a certain extent, be a matter of compromise, and he thought those who wished Clause 4 to stand would have to be satisfied if they got a majority of qualified men as directors. Personally, he would be satisfied if they got a majority. They had already succeeded in getting two small measures passed, and if they were reasonably moderate in their demands they might get something more. On the matter of registration, he thought it would be very desirable if the man in charge was registered rather than the shop.

Mr. CHARLES THOMPSON, supporting the resolution, thought the Bill should receive the support of all engaged in pharmacy. He would like a small annual registration fee of, say, 2s. 6d. for each name on the chemists' register. At present the register was not so perfect as it should be; it was impossible to keep it so under the present arrangements. He also drew attention to the fact that in large towns there are springing up a very large number of small drug-stores where no poisons are sold, and he would like to see some regulation in the new Bill which would deal with them.

Mr. A. SOUTHALL and Mr. F. H. ALCOCK joined in the discussion, and the motion was carried.

[Mr. Geo. E. Perry writes: "In your short report of the meeting of the above Association on Thursday last you state that a resolution, said to be moved by Mr. Wakefield, was seconded by me. This is an error. I was unfortunately not able to be present at the meeting. If I had been there, I should not have supported the resolution, as I regarded it as a weakening of the safeguards proposed by the Pharmaceutical Council in Clause 4 of the Bill. If we are to be compelled to swallow this noisome company-pharmacy, then, at any rate, we should relinquish nothing that will minimise its baneful consequences."]

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

THIS Association resumed its weekly meetings on Thursday, January 31, at Newman Street, W., when only ten members were present. The PRESIDENT (Mr. Dewhirst) occupied the chair, and after referring in sympathetic language to the death of the Queen, read a letter from Mr. Frederick Davis, who was to have read a paper on

CAUTCHOUC,

apologising for absence through indisposition. Mr. Davis sent his paper, which Mr. GOODE (Hon. Secretary) read.

The author mentioned that rubber was introduced into Europe from Condamine some hundred and fifty years ago,

France receiving the first parcel about 1735. Of known plants yielding rubber there are:—

Twelve of the *Euphorbiaceæ*, thirty-three of the *Artocarpeæ*, twenty-five of the *Apocynaceæ*, and of other natural orders or families some forty varieties, among these being: *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Manihot Glaziovii*, and *Sapium biglandulosum* (*Euphorbiaceæ*); *Ficus elastica* and *Castilloa elastica* (*Artocarpeæ*; *Urceola esculenta*, *Landolphia Kirkii*, *L. florida*, *L. Hendelotii*, and *Tabernaemontana Crassa* (*Apocynaceæ*).

Latex is obtainable from any part of these plants, but certain trees, such as *Alstonia macrophylla*, yield rubber from leaves and young twigs only.

Commercially rubber is known by the locality from which it is imported—e.g., Para, Peruvian, Mollendo, Mangabeira, Manicoba, Madagascar, Mozambique, Borneo, and Assam—but locality has very little to do with the quality of the rubber.

In obtaining the latex from the trees (*Hevea* and *Castilloa* especially) a V-shaped incision is made, as an incision shaped like the letter X yields little more than half the quantity in the same time. *Castilloa* trees yield much more latex per incision than *Hevea*. The latex is collected in cup-shaped receptacles which, when full, are emptied into one receptacle, generally a gourd; the natives dip a stick of bamboo in this, and, turning it, hold it over fumes and smoke from a wood fire until coagulated. The stick with the coagulated latex upon it is again dipped in, and the process repeated until a ball or piece of sufficient size is obtained. If the latex is left a day or two before this is done it putrefies. The yield of latex is greatest in the rainy season. It has been found that the latex may be kept from coagulations by the addition of a dilute solution of ammonia, but heat or the presence of an acid of any kind favours coagulation.

Another method of coagulating rubber consists, especially in *Castilloa* varieties, in drying the cream obtained from the latex on porous tiles. Such rubber is always of good quality. Ceara rubber, the product of *Manihot Glaziovii*, is removed from the latex by heating, when the particles of caoutchouc rapidly coagulate and agglomerate. Another method lately adopted for obtaining the caoutchouc from the latex is that of churning, much as in making butter from milk.

Mr. DEWHIRST said their thanks were due to Mr. Davis for his paper, and he was only sorry Mr. Davis was not present to answer any questions that might be asked. He was sorry the chemistry of rubber and rubber-substitutes was not touched upon, and he thought the author of the paper might have given them some general ideas without touching upon any of the special information which he hoped to publish later. Some points on the manufacture of rubber goods would have been very useful, in view of the fact that rubber goods of all kinds were so extensively used at the present day. There was a large fortune awaiting the man who solved the problem of manufacturing a satisfactory substitute.

Workington Chemists' and Druggists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at Workington on January 29. Mr. JAMES THOMPSON (the President) occupied the chair, and in his opening remarks he referred in appropriate terms to the loss the country had sustained by the death of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and wished for her successor an equally happy and prosperous reign.

The subject for discussion was the

DRAFT PHARMACY BILL,

which the PRESIDENT considered was a reasonable measure and worthy of support.

After discussion the following resolution, proposed by Mr. J. R. MASON and seconded by Mr. G. D. PATERSON, was carried unanimously:—

That this meeting of the Workington Chemists' and Druggists' Association, having considered the draft Pharmacy Bill of the Pharmaceutical Society, approves of the general principles of the same, with the additions prohibiting the dispensing of medical prescriptions by unqualified persons, and recommends that a clause be inserted to secure the exemption of all registered chemists and druggists from jury-service.

The member of Parliament for West Cumberland, Mr. J. S. Randles, has been asked to support the proposed

Pharmacy Bill, and it is understood that a satisfactory reply has since been received.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

AT the meeting held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on January 30, Mr. DAVID HARLEY (President) referred to the death of Queen Victoria, and the accession of King Edward VII. Mr. P. GOWIE read a note on "A Seventeenth-century Pharmacopœia (*Pharmacopœia Londinensis*, 1677). Mr. PETER BROWN followed with one on "The Natural History, Preparation, and Commerce of Sponges," and Mr. W. FRED BUIST read a paper on

MATÉ TEA.

In the course of an interesting essay the author gave a description of the means adopted in the cultivation of the *Yerba paraguayensis* from which the "Yerba" employed in making "Maté" is obtained. This cultivation has become necessary in order to meet the demand. The seeds are passed through an acid bath because each kernel is surrounded by a hard shell which must be softened in order that the seed may sprout quickly. If planted in its natural state between three and four years pass before the plant appears above the ground, while, by preparing seeds in this way only three or four months are required for the growth to begin. After eight or ten months the plants are transplanted, and an American company recently announced that they have 2,000 ready to be used. These will be placed in wooded land, which has been partially cleared, and in four years the first crop will be ready. After the first cutting the plant must be left untouched for three years, in which time it reaches its full growth again. A plantation, once well started, requires comparatively little attention; but at the beginning great care must be taken to protect the younger sprouts from sun. This is done by placing shades of straw or strong grass over each plant on the side on which the afternoon sun falls. It is claimed that by cultivation a much better and higher-priced article is produced. The author also referred to the properties of maté, and stated that he has been taking it for some time regularly, and when one gets over the slight peculiarity of taste it is a great pleasure to take it. He had no doubt that if people were induced to give it a fair trial it would in time become one of our national beverages. Mr. Buist exhibited various specimens illustrative of his remarks.

Wolverhampton and District Chemists' Association.

THE annual meeting of this Association was held on February 4, Mr. F. J. Gibson in the chair. The CHAIRMAN first read the annual report, which detailed the work of the Association during the past year. Reference was made to the action of the Association in opposing the objectionable clauses in the Companies Bill, the discussion on the Pharmaceutical Society's scheme regarding divisional secretaries, and various other matters. The Treasurer's statement of accounts showed a balance of 2*l.* 9*s.* in hand, and in conclusion it was stated that the greater proportion of the chemists in the district had joined the Association, which now had twenty-five members. The report was unanimously adopted, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. S. Philips; Vice-President, Mr. P. J. Godsall; Treasurer, Mr. H. E. Cullwick; Secretary, Mr. Harold Coleman; members of Committee, Messrs. Hall, Walker, and Willcock. Notice was given of an amendment of the rules, after which Mr. PHILIPS then took his seat as President, and after returning thanks he proposed thanks to Mr. Gibson, the late President, which were heartily accorded.

Mr. E. F. COLEMAN moved:—

That, if the Guardians elect an unqualified dispenser to the workhouse, this Association bring strong pressure to bear on the Local Government Board to refuse their sanction to such an appointment.

This was seconded by Mr. FORSTER, and Mr. GIBSON stated that he had written to Mr. Bremridge and had received replies that Mr. Bremridge had written to the Board of

Guardians. The resolution was carried unanimously. The PRESIDENT then opened a discussion on the

DRAFT PHARMACY BILL.

He said chemists had to put up with a lot and were slandered without redress, as the advertisement of a cutting firm appearing in the local papers proved. Chemists ought to receive protection from the State in return for their protection of the public. He thought the 1868 Act was sufficient, and that the Draft Bill was a Bill to regulate companies. He trusted the Pharmaceutical Council have good legal advice as to the protection of titles, but he thought they should have had a test-case on the question. In 1899 the Wolverhampton chemists agreed to support the "No Surrender" policy of the Council. The question now was whether they were going to stick to their guns or go with the Council in their present action. Mr. PHILIPS thought Clause 7 was worth the whole Bill.

Mr. CULLWICK spoke favourably of the Bill, but expressed a fear of over education at the expense of the business ability. Would-be candidates, he said, would be frightened at a curriculum, but he was in favour of Clause 7 provided the expenses were not too heavy.

Mr. WILLCOCK and Mr. E. F. COLEMAN spoke in support of the Bill, but further discussion was postponed till February 18.

The Secretary was instructed to thank the Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for his kindness in sending copies of the draft Pharmacy Bill.

Swansea and District Chemists' Association.

A WELL-ATTENDED MEETING of this Association was held at Hôtel Cameron on January 30, the President (Mr. J. W. Lloyd) in the chair.

Before proceeding with the business the CHAIRMAN moved that the following resolution be sent to the King and Royal family:—

The Swansea and District Chemists' Association humbly desire to sympathise in the great sorrow which his Majesty the King has sustained by the death of our beloved Sovereign the late Queen; and to submit to his Majesty the King our sincere congratulations on his accession to the throne, and to assure his Majesty of our loyal attachment and our earnest wish that his reign will be distinguished under the guidance and blessing of Providence to the happiness of a devout people.

The Chairman afterwards submitted the draft Pharmacy Bill for discussion. Each clause having been critically considered by several members, the following resolution was proposed by the CHAIRMAN and seconded by Mr. ARNOLD (Cwm Avon):—

That this Association accepts the general principles of the draft Pharmacy Bill of the Pharmaceutical Council, with the addition of the clause prohibiting the dispensing of medical prescriptions by unqualified persons, and urges the Pharmaceutical Council to use every endeavour to have the same passed into law.

This was carried *nem. con.* and terminated a very pleasant meeting.

Cardiff Association of Chemists' Assistants.

A MEETING was held at the Victoria Hotel, Queen Street, on Tuesday evening, February 5, under the presidency of Mr. J. W. Cooper, when a very interesting discussion took place with reference to early closing. The speaker who introduced the subject gave a very gloomy picture of the hardships which the assistants suffered. They had to work from 9 o'clock in the morning till 9 at night, whilst in some cases the duties commenced at half-past 8 A.M. and did not terminate till 10 P.M. On Saturdays they never closed till 11. He contrasted these hours with those worked by grocers' and drapers' assistants, and contended that so far from having to labour longer than these individuals, chemists' assistants, who belonged to a profession involving considerable brain exhaustion, ought to work fewer hours. He strongly urged that some combined efforts should be made to obtain the closing of the shops at 8 P.M. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, at 10.30 on Saturdays, and at 1 or 1.30 on Wednesday afternoons. The next speaker said if their establishments were closed at 8 o'clock

the doctors would have to do their own dispensing, and as they all knew, enough of that was done already. In order to retain this part of their business chemists would have to insist on someone residing on the premises, which he presumed would not be at all acceptable to anyone who at present lived out. The only way it seemed to him in which they could get earlier closing was to join the Shop Assistants' Union. The first speaker replied that at Barry Dock the chemists closed at 1 or 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and he did not see why the same privilege could not be granted in Cardiff. Another speaker said only two chemists in Cardiff lived on the premises. After considerable discussion it was resolved by a narrow majority to appoint a committee of four to wait upon the employés and see what could be done in the way of earlier closing.

Pharmaceutical Fauna.



Aries Scotorum.

Strachan had a learned ram
(His fleece was three pound two),
And when to Session Strachan went,
The ram gave him the cue.
An open letter to the Board
It wrote—against the rule—
But Michael sent a fiat forth,
For Michael is no fool.

Then Stormonth Darling cleared the Board;
The "foreigner" looked blue;
The Ram triumphantly defied
Our Michael and his crew.
So sadder, wiser, now they shun
The Bayley-Balfour ram
Who guards the thistle, helps the weak,
And shields the shorn lamb.

Note on Pulvis Algarothi.

By F. H. ALCOCK.

WHEN solution of antimony chloride is added to cold distilled water a white micro-crystalline precipitate appears, which slowly falls. If the vessel be laid aside for a few weeks it will be found that the colour of the precipitate will have changed to a reddish brown, and the crystals will have become large and flaky, in some instances their size being quite $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. This will explain why many precipitates are more easily collected, washed, and dried after they have been allowed to stand for some days, and also why creta præcipitata varies so much in its micro-character and "grittiness."

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

THE SCOTCH REBELLION has been abundantly justified by the decision of Lord Stormonth-Darling in the case of *Strachan v. Pharmaceutical Society*, and the "foreign defender" in the case, the Pharmaceutical Society, comes out of the contention disgraced as well as soundly defeated. I am not eager to make this comment, but it needs making; for no one who reads carefully the report of the arguments can avoid the conclusion that the Society did its utmost to win by methods which it may be sufficient to describe as, at least, unchivalrous. A dispute had arisen concerning the interpretation of a by-law. The Council's view has seemed to me untenable from the first, but its inability to understand the English language was not the feature of the debate which calls for resentment. The odious part of the Council's policy, as manifested by its legal representatives, was its undisguised attempt to avoid the arbitrament of the Court on the simple question at issue. It was argued that Strachan, not being a member of the Society, had no personal interest in its by-laws beyond the 3*l.* 2*s.* in dispute, and that the High Court had no jurisdiction in respect to sums under 25*l.*; that therefore the action had been brought in the wrong court. And this argument would have been successful if the Judge had not discovered some exceptions which gave him authority to deal with the case in an Act of 1672.

IF BY THE SUCCESS OF THAT POLICY the Council had saved the sixty-two shillings at stake, it would have lost far more than sixty-two shillingsworth of credit. Surely the members of the Society generally would have desired that Mr. Strachan and those who sympathised with him should have every facility for getting their contention before the most competent Court unhampered by technicalities, and with as little expense as possible. It is legal but not moral justice when a rich Society in litigation with an individual uses all the means available to it to prevent the real issue being tried. That this was the deliberate policy of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society appears from the fact that Mr. Strachan's application for membership of the Society was rejected, though he had, as his counsel asserted, "done everything that the charter prescribed as conditional prior to membership." It is gratifying that the Council's tactics completely failed, and that the Court of Session has not only read the by-law in dispute in its natural meaning, but was able to brush away the trumpety fences by which the defendants' counsel tried to prevent the Court from getting at the question at all.

THE MERCURIAL-OINTMENT CASE in the High Court goes some way to establish the position of the British Pharmacopœia as a standard for the nature, substance, and quality of the articles named in it. But not farther, I think, than many of us have hitherto recognised as necessary. Mr. Russell's argument for the appellant was, in my humble view, wrongly conceived. His contention was a great deal too general. It amounted to the claim that any vendor of medicines might sell pretty nearly what he liked under the conventional names of compounded drugs. He is asked for mercury ointment, and he gives the milder mercurial ointment because he thinks it better suited for his customer. If that principle, unsupported by any evidence, is to be accepted, why should not the vendor when asked for camphorated oil similarly think that an oil with half the official proportion of camphor, and dissolved in some

cheaper oil than that from the olives, is better for the purchaser? Mr. Justice Phillimore, in rejecting this view, very carefully says that, the drug asked for being one named in the Pharmacopœia, there is at least *prima-facie* evidence that the article sold should be of the nature, substance, and quality specified in that book. That is all. He does not say it is to be conclusive evidence; he does not say that the B.P. is a standard from which there is no appeal; but he insists that if you depart from it you must prove the superior validity of your authority for so doing. If Mr. Russell had turned his argument the other way up, it would have been more effective. If, for instance, he had said, "We acknowledge that as a rule the B.P. is an authority which we are bound to obey, but this is an exceptional case altogether," and if then he could have quoted other high authorities to prove that contention, the result might have been different.

AN INTERESTING REMINISCENCE of the early days of anæsthetics is published in last week's *Spectator* in a letter from Mr. Mitchell Henry, once M.P., and M.D. Mr. Henry is relating some of his recollections, and tells us that after receiving the rudiments of his medical education at Manchester he was articled to Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Lawrence, in London. While serving under him Mr. Lawrence had a run of cases which required the extirpation of the eye. One patient "had heard of something from America by the breathing of which insensibility was produced. Mr. Lawrence had no objection," and consequently, when the operation was to be performed, "there arrived in a cab Mr. Squire, the chemist, with a large bag." The ether was administered and never did it act better. The operation was completed, and the patient, waking up, recognised a relative standing by, said he was glad to see him, and Mr. Lawrence might begin. "It was a never-to-be-forgotten sensation" remarks Mr. Henry. The writer gives no date to this event, but says he is now 75, and as he was then an articled pupil, I suppose this must have occurred over fifty years ago. The first administration of ether in America was in 1846, and it was not till 1848 that Sir James Simpson published reports of his chloroform experiments. Mr. Squire (who, I suppose, was the late Mr. Peter Squire) was evidently very up to date.

"THE HISTORICAL ENGLISH DICTIONARY" has reached the word "Jew," and the part just published contains interesting paragraphs on *ipeacuanha* and *isinglass*. The former name, which yields such abundant orthographic variety "at the counter," is really a simplified form of the original spelling. Pechy, in 1682, spelt it *hypepocoanha*, in 1693 Froger gave it as *hypepocavana*, Lister in 1698 adopted *hypocochoana*, Pomet in 1712 got to *ipeacuanha*, and John Wesley, in his "Primitive Physick," is the first authority quoted who gave to the drug the exact title by which we know it. "Pour a dish of tea on 20 gr. of *ipeacuanha*," advised the famous divine. The native Brazilian word "*ipe-kaa-guene*" signifies a creeping (or roadside) plant causing vomiting. The native name for the *cephælis* is "*poaya*." In its earlier days *ipeacuanha* seemed to promise to get into our literature as signifying nausea generally. Shenstone (1763) writes: "The foppery of love-verses when a person is ill and indisposed is perfect *ipeacuanha*"; Horace Walpole (1788) declares that "an author talking of his own works or censuring those of others, is to me a dose of *ipeacuanha*"; and Southey (1829), in one of his humorous poems, writes:—

Words . . . which from me or you
Could not be forced by *ipeacuanha*,
Drop from his oratoric lips like manna.

ISINGLASS is a word whose etymology is one of the humours of philology. The German name for sturgeon's bladder is "*hansenblase*"; this was transferred to the Dutch as "*huisenblas*," and thence it worked its way into English, probably through sailors who are not always particular about their consonants, as *isinglass*. Dr. Murray, who throws a wet blanket over many popular derivations, confirms this one.

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Editorial Comments.

Pharmaceutical Affairs.

THIS week's meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council has yielded rather an interesting report. The first point which should strike everybody is the comparatively small number of certificates presented for registration as students of pharmacy—viz., sixteen. The number is abnormally low, but the certificates are the first that have been presented which cover the extended examination, and we may, there

fore, feel thankful for small mercies, but at least fifty certificates a month will be required in order to feed the register of chemists and druggists. In regard to examination and registration generally the report for 1900, which Mr. Bremridge submitted to the Council, leaves little room for comment, as we have already dealt with the principal facts in our Review of the Year, published on December 23, 1900. We may remark, however, that the figures which we then gave respecting the First examination were not quite accurate, as a larger number than we are able to trace of apprentices were registered on the strength of other certificates, the total who passed the Society's examination and brought other certificates being 1,217. This is a record figure, and the disparity between the numbers entering the trade, as represented by those figures, and those who actually qualified is remarkable. Only 548 persons passed the Minor examination last year, although 1,890 were examined. It is impossible to extract any comfort from the condition of the Minor examination. The Boards of Examiners succeed in the most astonishing manner in keeping the passes between 500 and 600 a year, no matter how many candidates appear or how often they are examined. It is curious, on the other hand, to notice that the Major examination attracts less attention, and the number of pharmaceutical chemists on the register is steadily decreasing. It is impossible, so long as candidates come forward, to get down to *nil*; nevertheless, at the present rate of arithmetical retrogression, by 1948 the number of pharmaceutical chemists in Great Britain will have been reduced to less than 100. To put it another way, by the time that the Pharmaceutical Society celebrates its centenary in 1941 it should be able to dine its pharmaceutical chemist members in the Caledonian Room of the Holborn Restaurant. We would urge the Council of the Society to look into this matter with something of the ardour that councillors put into the curriculum question, and would especially direct their attention to the fact that the increased stringency of the Minor examination gives candidates such a sickening of the whole business that they will not go forward to the Major. It seems, in fact, that the examination policy of the past five years has been a signal failure so far as the encouragement of "post-graduate" studies is concerned. The following figures support this view:—

Year	Examined	Passed	Year	Examined	Passed
1885	100	53	1897	106	52
1890	105	64	1898	121	64
1895	146	68	1899	103	50
1896	130	61	1900	101	44

To prevent the number of pharmaceutical chemists decreasing below 2,000 about 75 new ones are required yearly. Of course there is little or no encouragement for young men going forward to the Major; indeed, the only encouragement is the personal gratification of having tried all that the calling offers in the way of qualification. The mere title "pharmaceutical chemist" is insufficient recompense, since the membership of the Society, of the Council, and of the Boards of Examiners has been thrown open to chemists and druggists.

There will be general satisfaction at the Council's resolution not to proceed further with the action in respect to the interpretation of By-laws 22 and 23, Section x., which Lord Stormonth Darling decided against them in Edinburgh last week. The *amende honorable* was made to the plaintiff in that action by his election as a member of the Society. The President, in the course of his remarks on this matter (which, with all respect, we take *cum grano salis*), referred to journalistic statements respecting it as misleading, because they were untrue and insulting to the members of the Council. Generalisations of this nature are apt to stick anywhere, but we have more respect for Mr. Newsholme than

to suppose that he referred to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, especially as he immediately afterwards spoke of periodicals whose objects are not in sympathy with the Society. That cannot be regarded as an attribute of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, since our objects include those of the Society—viz., furtherance of the best interests of British pharmacy, and it is difficult to overlook the fact that most of the members of the Society are subscribers to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. But it can scarcely be expected that sympathy with the Society and its objects as expressed in the Charter should bar criticism of those who govern the Society. That is a right which we must retain and exercise within the lines which govern polite discussion.

The condition of the Pharmacy Bill also received consideration at the Council-meeting, but chiefly *in camera* the Law and Parliamentary Committee having met after the public business was closed. It is understood that the Council is to expedite the revision of the measure so that it may be ready for introduction to Parliament as soon as possible after the Session is opened by the King on February 14.

Chilblains.

"SOMETHING for chilblains" is a request which has been frequently heard in pharmacies during recent weeks. The question arises as to what remedy best meets the customer's wants. The chilblain, or, to give the medical equivalent, *Dermatitis congelationis*, is a circulatory ailment most frequently found in children. It affects the hands and feet, and less frequently the ears and nose. "Kibe," the name by which a chilblain is known in some parts of the country, applies particularly to the broken form of chilblain. The chilblain patient is by some observers taxed with a special circulation, others say that a gouty or rheumatic diathesis is the determining factor, while others say a torpidity of nerve action induces a stagnation in the circulation and paralysis of the capillaries. Exposure to wet and cold is the primary cause, although, curiously enough, in hot climates chilblains are equally prevalent. The identity between a chilblain and a frost-bite is close. The intense itching of chilblains, especially under the glow of warmth, may be looked upon as an effort of Nature to cure the evil by stimulating treatment. The fact that the itching and burning sensation is apparent only when the part is warm distinguishes the chilblain from ordinary inflammation. As a matter of fact, the irritation is caused by the serous effusion from the capillaries increasing, because the circulation is quickened. The smarting is thus synonymous with that of a burn, which stops, or is much assuaged, when the blisters stop growing. Chilblain remedies are both internal and external, although, as a rule, patients cannot be induced to take medicine internally for the complaint. Calcium chloride, 10 to 20 gr. doses, is the most modern remedy, but as a rule generous diet, and, in the case of children, supplemented by "malt and oil," does a lot of good. Most grown-up customers can be induced to take a tonic, and there are few better mixtures than one like the following:—

Ferri et ammon. cit.	...	...	3ij.
Tr. nucis vomicæ	...	...	3iss.
Syrupi	...	...	3ss.
Aq. chloroformi ad	...	...	3viij.

M.

3ss. ter die ex aquâ.

In some cases malt and hypophosphites (mild in strychnine) is most advantageous.

As to external remedies, bathing with very hot water may usefully be made the forerunner of one of the following

applications. The first class of external remedies are soothing applications, containing belladonna, opium, or cocaine. Belladonna, on account of its action as an arterial stimulant, is good. The following are two forms in which it can be used:—

Lin. belladonnae	...	...	...	3j.
Chloroformi	...	...	...	3ss.
Liniment. saponis ad	...	...	...	3iv.

Apply by wrapping round the fingers or toes with pieces of lint wetted with the liniment. A ten-minutes' application is sufficient.

Atropinae	...	...	...	gr. ss.
Morphinae hydrochloridi	...	...	...	gr. ij.
Alcoholis absolutis	...	...	...	5j.
Ol. amygdale amare	...	...	...	mij.
Lin. pot. iodid. c. sapone	...	...	...	3ij.

M.

A small quantity to be rubbed into the affected parts night and morning.

Astringent remedies are often very successful, such as a solution of tannin in alcohol (5j. in 3j.), or the following:—

Acidi acetici	...	...	...	3j.
Liquoris plumbi subacet. fort.	...	...	...	3ss.
Spiritus camphorae	...	...	...	3ss.

Paint on the parts frequently.

Painting the parts with tincture of iodine has been highly spoken of, but it has to be freely and frequently used. Ichthyl ointment (30 per cent.) and naphthol liniment (10 per cent., in a mixture of equal parts of alcohol and olive oil) have also been much recommended. Another class of remedies depends on the fact that gentle pressure on the parts gives relief. Unna's gelatin, liquor guttapercha, and collodion belong to this type. Mr. Baile, of Margate, mentions in his *Pharmacopœia* the following as a specific:—

Capsicum in coarse powder	...	...	...	3j.
Pure carbon bisulphide	...	...	...	0j.
Oil of wintergreen	...	...	...	5j.
Guttapercha	...	...	...	3iij.

Digest for three days, and strain. Apply with a camel-hair brush once or twice daily.

Capsicum is objected to by some as one of the worst applications for chilblains. A mixture of collodion of belladonna 1 part and flexile collodion 2 parts is an improvement upon it.

In the case of broken chilblains, a healing and stimulating ointment is indicated, such as boric or zinc ointment, with a little hydrarg. ox. rub. The following is good:—

Venice turpentine	...	...	...	3iss.
Castor oil	...	...	...	3vj.
Collodion	...	...	...	3ss.

Apply with a brush.

Some of the above remedies are quite suited for counter adjuncts, but in the case of poor customers the use of a camphor roll can be recommended as both cheap and effectual.

Proteolytic Ferments.

AN important addition to our knowledge of the proteolytic ferments occurs in the thesis offered for the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy at the Paris University by V. Harlay, and published in the *Bulletin des Sciences Pharmacologiques*. The author points out that Bourquelot and Bertrand have shown that fungi of the mushroom type usually contain two varieties of ferments, the one of the nature of laccase, which is able to oxidise such bodies as laccol, pyrogallol, hydroquinone, and, in general, polyphenols which contain a *para* grouping; the other acts especially upon tyrosin, giving to it first a red and then a black colour. This second ferment, which is known as tyrosinase, is specially abundant in the

juice of *Russula delica*. Harlay applies this biological reaction to the study of the products of transformation of the albumenoid matters of various origin, under the influence of proteolytic ferments, such as pepsin, pancreatin, or papain. The difference in the action of these ferments is very marked; pepsin, for example, induces digestion as far as the tyrosin stage, whilst papain produces a little tyrosin, and trypsin produces a great deal. The presence of tyrosin in the products of digestion is therefore easy of detection, when the biological reaction referred to is employed; and it has been observed in the digestion of the following bodies by trypsin: fibrin, albumen, casein, conglutin (the vegetable casein of the almond), gluten, and muscular flesh. With gelatin no reaction was obtained. With the products of pepsic digestion the reaction is different, since the process is only carried as far as the tyrosin stage; by the addition of the juice of *Russula delica*, a red tint, which, in a few hours gives place to a green, is yielded, the green being of a permanent character and resembling that of biliverdin. This new colouring matter (pepsic green) is turned red by alkalis, the red colour being restored by acids. Papaic digestion produces similar results, the quantity of tyrosin formed being too little to mask the papaic green. Unfortunately no evidence whatever is forthcoming as to the nature of this chromophore, and an interesting problem is thus left open for further research. The reaction has also enabled the action of heat upon ferments to be very satisfactorily studied. It is clearly shown that although heat suppresses the action of these ferments, it does not in the least modify the process as far as the products formed are concerned. The actual temperatures at which the ferments are destroyed are, for pepsin, 68° C.; for trypsin, 66° C.; and for papain, 82° C. The reciprocal actions of ferments upon one another has also been successfully studied by means of this reaction. Pancreatin acts on pepsin in a neutral medium, destroying its digestive activity. Pancreatin and papain merely super-add their digestive activities. Papain, in a neutral or slightly acid medium, partially destroys pepsin. A further careful study of these mixed products of digestion should be of great pharmacological value, since it is not an uncommon practice to prescribe several of them in conjunction, and it is possible that this is inadvisable in many cases. The reaction produced by *Russula delica* is due to the oxydase which it contains; hence it may be possible to find a purely chemical reagent to take its place as an analytical agent. It is well known that bromine water distinguishes the tryptic peptones from the pepsic peptones, so this is quite a legitimate expectation. The optical rotation of the peptones also offers some indications as to their origin, since the pepsic peptones usually have a value near $(\alpha)_d = -50^\circ$, whilst the pancreatic peptones generally fall below -40° . In the course of this work Harlay has established that the autodigestion of fibrin in chloroform saturated media (the chloroformic digestion of Salkowski, Denys, and Marbaix) is in reality due to the action of a proteolytic ferment attached to the fibrin, and that this ferment behaves very like trypsin. He also thinks that this conclusion may be extended to the saline digestion of Dastre, these conclusions being amongst the most interesting of Harlay's numerous researches on the digestive ferments.

A NEW CENTURY MOVEMENT.

The Council of the Chemical Society is asking the Fellows their opinion as to a change in the day and hour of the ordinary meetings of the Society, it having been proposed to change the hour for the ordinary meetings of the Society from Thursdays at 8 P.M. to Wednesdays at 5.30 P.M. A postcard vote is being taken from the Fellows this week, and there is little doubt that Wednesday will be adopted.

Thursday is inconvenient to many of the leading members of the Society, because it clashes with the meetings of the Royal Society, and as the majority of the Fellows who attend the Chemical meetings are free about 5 o'clock each day, it will suit them to drop into Burlington House at five for a cup of tea, then assist in polishing off the papers, readable and otherwise, and finish up with dinner in the neighbourhood. There was a talk some time ago about the pharmaceutical *habitués* forming a dining-club amongst themselves. Should the proposed change be carried out, there will be more hope for that movement.

NO ARSENIC IN SACCHARIN.

A correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* stated last week that a medical friend of his had had "a prolonged attack of peripheral neuritis. In searching for the cause he bethought himself of saccharin, which he has used regularly for the past two years. He sent a sample from his stock to his county analyst, who reported the presence of arsenic therein. His health rapidly returned on discontinuing its use." This is such an extraordinary statement, and of such importance to chemists and druggists as retailers of saccharin, that we have had two trade samples rigidly examined for arsenic, and we find it quite free from it. With Reinsch's test there is a slight blackening of the copper foil but no sublimate, and this has probably misled the *B.M.J.* "authority." The Saccharin Corporation inform us that there is no possible inlet for arsenic in the process of manufacture, but for some time, and especially since the beer scare, they have had every sample examined for arsenic, and it has not been found.

THE B.P. AS THE STANDARD.

The decision in the mercury-ointment appeal has awakened much interest throughout the drug-trade, especially in wholesale circles, as well as amongst public analysts; and we print in this issue views from all sides respecting it, which require no comment from us, except the remark that the decision of last week need not be regarded as final. It is still possible, although it might be fatuous, to appeal to the High Court against every local decision based on the B.P. as a standard. In this connection we may recall the fact that a case for the High Court has been stated on the North London camphorated-oil case, and the Chemists' Defence Association had proceeded so far with the legal formalities of it that the hearing in the High Court will be taken. When this is done it may be expected that different arguments will be presented to the Court, especially such as will elucidate the desirability for recognising commercial standards for popular medicines the names of which have been appropriated by the Pharmacopœia for articles of different composition or strength. There has only been one expression of medical opinion on last week's decision—viz., that by the *Medical Press*—and it is so wide of the mark and inaccurate that we apologise for reproducing even a fragment:—

The need of dispensing chemists to carefully look at home before they enter into a campaign against outside interests becomes every day more apparent. On the relatively rare occasions when a zealous local authority inquires into the composition of castor oil or spirit of camphor, or other simple Pharmacopœial preparation, the odds are that one and all are proved to be grossly adulterated. Most of our medical readers would probably imagine that there could be little room for substitution or for serious variation in simple "blue ointment." A recent case in the law courts, however, proves the contrary. [The facts are given.] The chemist explained that he kept a weak ointment for ordinary use, and sold the stronger only when the customer had medical authority for demanding it. To admit that plea would be to pith the Medical Act of 1858 of its power to enforce the sale of pure drugs. The first issue of the British Pharmacopœia was in 1867, and it fixes the legal standard of purity of drugs. It would be well if local authorities throughout the United Kingdom looked a little more carefully into the quality of the preparations sold at chemists' shops.

No convictions are recorded in respect to the sale of adulterated castor oil and spirit of camphor; the Medical Act, 1858, has nothing to do with the sale of drugs, and the first issue of the B.P. was in 1864.

College Note.

A RÉUNION.—The annual reunion of the North of England School of Chemistry and Pharmacy took place on January 30, in Simpson's Café, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. There was a large attendance of past and present students, besides representatives from the local retail and wholesale trade. Amongst others Mr. G. F. Merson, F.C.S., and Mr. W. Atkins (Secretary of the Newcastle Chemists' Association), supported Mr. F. R. Dudderidge, F.C.S. (Principal of the School), who was in the chair. After an excellent repast had been disposed of smoking began, and songs were well rendered by Messrs. Dudderidge, Patterson, Webb, McPhail, Blackburn, Alexander, and Woolf. Messrs. Gowland, Longstaff, and Parsons gave recitations, and Messrs. Alexander and Blackburn pianoforte solos. Cello solos were contributed by Mr. J. S. Hill, and a gramophone exhibited by Mr. James Duncan added largely to the success of the concert. "God save the King" brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

Bovril, Limited.

THE fourth annual general meeting was held in the Throne Room, Holborn Restaurant, on February 7, which was crowded. Viscount Duncannon, C.B., presided, and was supported by Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell, G.C.B., Dr. Farquharson, M.P., and Messrs. G. Lawson Johnston, F. Gordon, W. E. Lawson Johnston, and A. Walker. Before the general business the meeting adopted resolutions of sympathy to be sent to the King on the death of Queen Victoria, and to Mrs. Lawson Johnston and her family in regard to their recent bereavement. In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet (particulars of which were given in last week's issue), the Chairman said the new premises had abundantly justified the trouble and expense involved in erecting them. Bovril commodities had been placed under the British Analytical Control as another guarantee of purity. Large orders had been executed for Government during the past year. Business had increased with hospitals and infirmaries, over 500 of those institutions now buying regularly. He then went into the accounts, after which, according to the provisions of the New Companies Act, he read the auditor's certificate and letter. The position of the company, he contended, was made stronger by the addition of 40,000% to reserve, and carrying forward 14,182%. The directors thought that the best course to pursue in the interests of all, even the deferred shareholders.

The motion was seconded by Mr. George Lawson Johnston, who thanked the shareholders on behalf of the family for their resolution of sympathy.

Mr. Oldfield congratulated the directors on the success of the year, but Mr. Geo. Mann (Leeds) moved as an amendment—

That the balance-sheet be amended in that particularly relating to deferred shares, so that instead of 3½ per cent. it may read 5½ per cent.; that 35,000 be placed to reserve, and the balance carried forward.

This was seconded, and in the discussion feeling ran high for some time, as the holders of deferred shares appeared to be present in strength. Mr. Strauss upheld the directors amid considerable interruption, but an amusing interlude was afforded by Mr. C. E. Flower, who kept the meeting convulsed for nearly half an hour, and completely restored good humour. The Chairman intimated that after conferring together the directors saw no reason to alter their decision. The amendment and resolution were then put consecutively, and it was claimed that the amendment had been carried. The Chairman at this point intimated that the amendment, even if it were carried, could not be put into effect because, although the shareholders had power to reduce a dividend, they had no power to increase it. Things appeared to be at a deadlock, when Mr. Mann moved that the meeting be adjourned for three weeks. This was seconded by Mr. Harrigan, when Sir Alfred Newton (ex-Lord Mayor of London) interposed with the suggestion that the 14,000% might be carried forward to next year on account of the deferred shareholders. The Chairman pointed out that they had no power to carry out Sir Alfred Newton's suggestion, but after Mr. Frederick Gordon (one of the directors) had spoken the opposition cooled down. The motion about adjournment was put and lost by a large majority, and the directors' report and balance-sheet agreed to. Messrs. F. Gordon and G. Lawson Johnston were re-elected directors, and the appointment of Mr. W. E. Lawson Johnston to a seat on the board was confirmed.

Society of Public Analysts.

THE annual meeting of the members of this Society was held in the rooms of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., on Tuesday afternoon, February 5. Mr. W. W. Fisher, M.A., F.I.C., of Oxford (the retiring President), was in the chair, and the annual reports were submitted and approved. Thereafter the following officers were appointed:—

President—J. Augustus Voelcker, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D.
Vice-Presidents—Wm. Chattaway, Ph.C., H. Leffmann, M.D., and Francis Sutton, Ph.C.

Hon. Treasurer—E. W. Voelcker, A.R.S.M. (re-elected).

Hon. Secretaries—E. J. Bevan and A. C. Chapman (re-elected).

New Members of Council—Julian L. Baker, Bertram Blount, W. J. Dibdin, Arthur E. Ekins, Ph.C., Thomas Fairley, and Clarence A. Seyler, B.Sc.

The meeting then adjourned, when the office-bearers dined together, the annual dinner being indefinitely postponed owing to the national mourning. At 8 o'clock an ordinary meeting was held, Dr. Voelcker presiding. After the minutes were read the President thanked the members for electing him, and intimated that the Council had elected Dr. T. E. Thorpe, C.B., F.R.S., Principal of the Government Laboratories, as an honorary member of the Society. After some further formal business the President called upon Mr. A. H. Allen, F.I.C., F.C.S., to read his communication on

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPEIA AS A STANDARD.

Mr. Allen referred to proposals that had been made for making the Pharmacopœia the standard for drugs under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and recalled from memory that, at the Select Committee which took the evidence that led to the 1879 Amendment Act, Mr. Thomas, of the Local Government Board, as a witness, strongly urged that the British Pharmacopœia should be specified in the Act, while Dr. James Bell, then the principal Government chemist, had said that the Pharmacopœia was practically recognised as the standard, so that little would be gained by mentioning it in the Act. The next step in progress was the Sheffield tincture-of-opium case, which has since become historic as the *White v. Bywater* appeal. In this Mr. Allen, as public analyst, had reported a sample of tincture of opium to contain half the amount of opium and one-third the amount of alcohol officially required, and the Stipendiary Magistrate had decided against the prosecution because the thing sold was a tincture of opium. On appeal to the High Court this decision was reversed, but the decision was still limited in scope, and the opinion had been growing in certain quarters that the British Pharmacopœia does not apply to articles named therein when sold but not prescribed. Mr. Allen quoted from Dr. John Atfield's speech at Plymouth in 1899 a statement which seemed to favour that view, and he read the Order in Council of 1851, which requires apothecaries and others to compound according to the London Pharmacopœia, while the Medical Act of 1832 perpetuates in respect to the British Pharmacopœia any Order of Council previously passed. He also quoted Section 15 of the Pharmacy Act, which requires that any person compounding pharmacopœial medicines except according to the British Pharmacopœia formularies, shall be liable as specified in the Act. This took Mr. Allen up to the decision given by Mr. Justice Bruce and Mr. Justice Phillimore last week. That, he said, takes the matter somewhat further. While he considered that the B.P. is not perfect in respect to its descriptions, characters, and tests, yet he did not approve of it being on that or any other account dragged from its position of authority. He thought it a great pity that the Pharmacopœia had not been definitely adopted in the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, a schedule of exemptions to its standards being appended as had been suggested by that Society. By "exemptions" Mr. Allen meant such drugs or medicines as may be in common use by the public for purposes other than what they are used for by medical practitioners. He concluded by suggesting that the Society should endeavour to get an early revision of the B.P., and the first step towards that, he thought, should be that a representative committee, consisting of analysts, medical practitioners, pharmacists, manufacturers, and

others interested, should be brought together to prepare a case to lay before the General Medical Council, and should obtain an interview with that Council with the object of getting common titles and synonyms, which are in the British Pharmacopœia, subjected to rigid criticism and revision, with a view to any ambiguity as between trading and prescribing being removed.

DISCUSSION.

It was not surprising that in the somewhat lengthy discussion which followed, the speakers did not all stick rigidly to Mr. Allen's concise text, a great deal being said about the merits of the B.P. which might as well have been left unsaid. Mr. Chattaway, of the Apothecaries' Hall, was asked to open the discussion, and he contented himself with saying that he did not think immediate revision of the British Pharmacopœia could be obtained.

Mr. Martin Priest considered the High Court decision unfair, and he asserted, amid some dissent, that the law looks differently on the chemist and on the grocer in regard to the sale of pharmacopœial articles. He instanced camphorated-oil and beeswax cases in proof of his statement, it having been held that a grocer might sell a camphorated oil of any strength he liked, or beeswax heavily adulterated, while the chemist must sell those of the Pharmacopœia quality. He maintained that some consideration ought to be given by public analysts to the business reputation of pharmacists. In quite a number of cases, he asserted, honest men had been prosecuted for selling drugs which were notoriously variable in quality. There are many bad points about the B.P., he thought, and modifications in the descriptions, characters, and tests are required with the view to making these conform more properly with the commercial qualities.

Dr. Bernard Dyer criticised Mr. Priest's remarks in respect to the grocer and the chemist, pointing out that when a drug such as beeswax is purchased from a chemist it is surmised to be for medicinal purposes, but when purchased from a grocer it may be for ordinary domestic purposes, such as polishing furniture.

Mr. Thomas Tyrer was then invited to speak. He complimented Mr. Allen upon the moderation of his criticisms and suggestions, and, speaking as a manufacturer, said that it was his constant endeavour to adhere as far as possible to the B.P. requirements, but it was often impossible because impracticable. He submitted that the principle on which the Pharmacopœia works purity-tests is wrong, and instanced the case of sodium sulphate, where it is said:—

It should yield no characteristic reaction with the tests for lead, iron, aluminium, calcium, magnesium, potassium, ammonium, or carbonates, and only the slightest reactions with the tests for chlorides.

Such minutiae he considered ludicrous. What the Pharmacopœia should do is to specify the limits of impurity, and in such a thing as sodium sulphate what is wanted is a definite percentage—say, 98 per cent.—of the crystallised salt with limits of impurities. What does it matter though Glauber's salt contains a dash of sodium chloride? When a dose is taken it meets with more sodium chloride in the natural contents of the stomach than could possibly be in the salt itself. On the other hand, the B.P. cannot be too careful in respect to alkaloids and fine chemicals which may contain really serious impurities. There is, he continued, a great deal of misunderstanding in respect to the Pharmacopœia as a standard, owing to the different points of view from which the matter is looked at, and he welcomed Mr. Allen's suggestion of a representative committee as a thing which they had been wanting for years. They could not expect medical men to be proficient chemists, as, although the medical curriculum had been extended, less attention was given to chemistry. Referring to the mercury-ointment case, Mr. Tyrer said what was really wanted was evidence of fraud, and so long as there were strong grounds for thinking that the sale of weak articles was actuated by the desire of greater profits, he thought they were justified in instituting proceedings. Manufacturers never sent out dilute mercurial ointment. He had never made an ounce of it in his life, although he had made tons of ung. hyd. fort., and he presumed that wholesale druggists never sent out anything else unless it was specially ordered. Having referred to the arsenical sodium-phosphate cases, and stated that that impurity was largely the result of the rage for

cheapness, Mr. Tyrer concluded by referring to the recent snubbing of the British Pharmaceutical Conference for its endeavour to encourage research by the institution of a research scholarship.

Mr. Charles Tyrer said that if the B.P. is to be a standard under any Act it should be reasonable in itself. He agreed with his father that the methods of determining impurities should be well defined. He had recently compared the description of ether in seventeen Pharmacopœias, and he was surprised to find that the Mexican was ahead of the British.

Mr. Otto Hehner thought last week's decision would tend to make the British Pharmacopœia more satisfactory than it is, because the compilers, knowing that it would be used as the standard under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, would be more careful in defining characters and tests. He hoped that they would all work together for this end.

Mr. C. H. Cribb objected to the way in which retailers are employing British Pharmacopœia names, and he instanced two cases that he had recently come across. One was a label for "CAMPHOR EMBROCATION KNOWN AS CAMPHORATED OIL"; also one for sweet spirit of nitre, which had an addition to the effect that it was not the B.P. article—his point being that B.P. names should not be applied to anything except B.P. articles.

Mr. Harrison, of British Guiana, suggested, amidst laughter, that the British Guiana way of treating B.P. articles would be advantageous: there they admitted B.P. drugs at a lower rate of duty than those of the same name which were not up to B.P. standard.

Mr. Allen then replied. In the course of his remarks he said that while his sympathies were very largely with pharmacists, he thought they were rather inclined to be occasionally a law unto themselves, and it had been firmly maintained that only medicines for prescriptions should be of B.P. quality. He thought the present was a favourable time for moving, as he suggested, because he understood that Dr. Attfield had ceased his association with the Pharmacopœia, and last week's High Court decision should lead to some recognition by the General Medical Council of something being done.

The President, having complimented the author, intimated that the Council of the Society had recently appointed a committee to deal with the subject.

Other papers of non-pharmaceutical interest followed.

Trade-Marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. Dalton, Esq., C.E., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost 1s., obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," January 30, 1901.)

"TARBOL" (no claim for "TAR"); for a disinfectant and germicide and toilet preparations. By The Chemical Union (Limited), Halifax Works, Wherstead Road, Ipswich. 234,631, 234,674, 234,676.

"ZERMIDE"; for veterinary preparations in Class 2. By Margaret Lambirth, 64 St. Michael's Road, Aldershot. 234,781.

"NIGHTMORNA"; for pills for human use. By Austin Brenchley, 12 Wansley Street, London, S.E. 235,540.

"ASTHMALENE" (no claim for "ASTHMA"); for chemical substances. By Dr. Taft Brothers Medicine Company, 79 East 130th Street, New York. 233,863.

"MOCELINE"; for food and condiments for animals. By the Molassine Company (Limited), 36 Mark Lane, E.C. 235,137.

"HAIRAHOX" (no claim for "HAIR"); for toilet-washes and hair-preparations. By R. Hastings, 34 Duke Street, St. James', London. 232,379.

DIPHTHERIA IN AUSTRIA.—Recent statistics show that in Austria during 1899 there were 30,716 cases of diphtheria, with a mortality of 25.97 per cent. Of 16,893 patients treated with serum 2,725 (16.13 per cent.) died; of the 13,823 treated without serum, 5,252 (37.39 per cent.) died.

Legal Reports.

High Court Cases.

WHAT IS AN INVENTED WORD?

MR. JUSTICE COZENS-HARDY disposed of an interesting trade-mark case on Monday in respect to the word "Uneeda" for goods in Class 42 (biscuits, &c.). An American company had applied for registration of the word as a trade-mark, and the Comptroller refused it because it was not an "invented word" within the meaning of Section 64 of the Act of 1883, as amended in 1888. His Lordship held that the word was not the name of an Indian maiden, but a form of "You need a," and as he read the "Solio" case in the House of Lords, it was impossible to regard it as invented. Lord Herschell, in the course of his argument, had referred to the words "Phit Eesi," and in his judgment said:—

It may, no doubt, sometimes be difficult to determine whether a word is an invented word or not. I do not think the combination of two English words is an invented word, even although the combination may not have been in use before; nor do I think that a mere variation of the orthography or termination of a word would be sufficient to constitute an invented word, if to the eye or ear the same idea would be conveyed as by the word in its ordinary form.

Mr. Justice Cozens-Hardy considered that binding upon him, and he was bound to hold that the word conveyed to the ear the same idea as the words put together would have done if they had not been misspelt. It had been argued that the word was one "having no reference to the character or quality of the goods," but it seemed to him that it was commendatory and described the article as being suitable for people's wants. The application was, therefore, dismissed, with costs.

BRITISH FULLERS' EARTH COMPANY.

AN application made to the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on January 31, on behalf of the overseers of the parish of Aspley Heath, to order the receiver and manager of this company to pay 50s. for rates out of the receipts of the sale of the property, failed, because Mr. Justice Buckley said the money belonged to the debenture-holders.

A VALUER'S COMMISSION.

BEFORE Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury in the King's Bench Division on Friday, February 1, the case of *Bishop v. Mannors* came on for trial. It was a claim by Mr. Edward James Bishop, of Folkestone, to recover 70s. 9s. 7d. from the defendant, Mr. Alfred Mannors, chemists' and druggists' valuer, 76 Cannon Street, fees and commissions alleged to have been overcharged by him on the sale of plaintiff's businesses at Folkestone and Dover. It appeared that in 1899 Mr. Bishop, the plaintiff, carried on business as a chemist and druggist in two shops situate at Folkestone and Dover respectively. In that year he sold the two businesses to a Mr. White, through negotiations carried on by the defendant, who acted as valuer and agent. A price was agreed upon, and in forwarding a cheque the defendant deducted his own charges, amounting to 229s. 10s. 3d.—which included the sums said to be overcharged—and sent on the balance. Substantially, the only items now in dispute were four sums of 2s. 10s. each, the difference between 5 and 2½ per cent. on 100s., and a charge of 32s. 2s. for taking a valuation of the stock in the year 1897, for the purposes of the sale. The plaintiff's case was that in consideration of there being two businesses, the defendant agreed to forego his usual charge of 5 per cent. on the first 100s., and charge 2½ per cent. all round, and that the charge of 32s. 2s. for valuation of the stock in 1897 was excessive, all that the defendant was required to do being to go through the stock-sheets of that year. Defendant's reply was that he had not agreed to take 2½ per cent. all round. He told the plaintiff he was asking him to do something unusual in getting two years' net profits, while he would get nothing if there was not a sale. In regard to the stock valuation for 1897, every item had to be checked in the sheets, to enable him to find any overcharges, and it was a very long task. He had charged only 2 per cent. The usual charge for a valuation was 5 per cent. on the first 100s., and 2½ per cent. after, and that

basis would have increased the charge of 32*l.* 2*s.* by some 10*l.* 10*s.* In cross-examination defendant admitted that before the sale he received a letter from plaintiff saying he had agreed to waive the 5-per-cent. charge. He did not reply on that letter to Mr. Bishop, but told his solicitor immediately after, as he had done all along, that the charge was 5 per cent. on the first 100*l.* After some other evidence, the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for 37*l.* 10*s.*, a further sum of 23*l.* having been paid into court and accepted by plaintiff before the issue came on for trial.

DEIGHTON v. MUNDAY.

IN the Chancery Division on February 1, before Mr. Justice Kekewich, Mr. Warrington, with whom was Mr. Wood, moved, on behalf of the plaintiff, for an order varying the minutes of an order made by his Lordship on December 14, for the removal of the defendant as manager of a chemist's business at Cardiff under the supervision of Mr. Stansfield, the Receiver appointed in the action. The case had been several times previously before the Court (*C. & D.*, vol. 57, pp. 892, 913, 998, and 1008).

Mr. Justice Kekewich said his intention was that the valuation which had been directed to be made by Mr. Williams, a chemist, of Cardiff, should be on the basis of allowing a fair trade profit.

Mr. Warrington said, in addition to the question of valuation, it was necessary that the Receiver making a profit on the sale of the stock should distinguish between so much of the profit as belonged to the plaintiff as owner of the goodwill and so much as belonged to the defendant as owner of the stock, and an inquiry had been directed as to how much of the profits represented a fair trade profit. The Registrar had drawn up the order in this way:—"It is ordered that the defendant do sell and the Receiver do purchase the stock-in-trade of the defendant in and about the said leasehold premises at a valuation to be forthwith made on the basis of a fair-selling profit, as if sold over the counter." He submitted that those latter words would utterly defeat the object which his Lordship had in view in making the order.

After considerable discussion the following minutes were agreed to:—

The minutes as settled by the Registrar to stand with the following modifications: (1) The direction to sell the stock to read as under, "Allow the defendant to sell and the receiver to purchase the stock in trade of the defendant in and about the said leasehold premises, and the amount of the valuation made by Jesse Williams, of Cardiff, on the basis of a fair-selling profit as if sold over the counter;" (2) Insert direction by Receiver to pay the said sum out of any moneys coming to his hands after the date of order irrespective of any disbursements he might have to make for wages, or for any other purpose; (3) A direction to keep a separate account and inquiry to read, "Let the Receiver keep a separate account of the profits realised by means of a sale of the stock so purchased, and let the following inquiry be made:—An inquiry whether any, and if any, what proportion of the profits so realised by means of the sale of the stock so to be purchased by the Receiver from the defendant represents a fair-selling profit on the stock itself, as if sold over the counter."

The rest of the motion was directed to stand over until Saturday, February 9.

FILING A CONTRACT.

IN the Chancery Division of the High Court on February 1, Mr. Norman Craig applied on behalf of Messrs. Thos. Ridley & Co. (Limited), wholesale manufacturing chemists, druggists, and drysalter, Carlisle, for relief under Section 1 of the Companies Act of 1898 for permission to file a contract under Section 25 of the Act of 1867. Counsel explained that there was a contract to sell the business to a company for fully paid-up shares, but that had not been filed as it ought to have been, owing to inadvertence. The company was a private trading company, and was in a flourishing condition. The application was granted.

County Court Cases.

A BOTTLE ACCIDENT.

AT the Clerkenwell County Court on February 1, William Tuttle, sued Messrs. Hooper, Struve & Co., chemists and mineral-water makers, Tottenham Court Road, W.C., to recover 100*l.* damages for personal injuries sustained by

plaintiff, and alternately 60*l.* at Common Law. The action was for injuries sustained by reason of a defect in the condition of the defendants' plant, or the negligence of the man superintending the work carried on at defendants' premises. The plaintiff was engaged as trucker, and had to pack bottles into boxes, after they had been filled. On September 12 a bottle exploded, and a piece of glass struck him in the left eye. He was taken to the hospital, and his eye was removed. The plaintiff denied that he was wearing his mask on his forehead. The men at the factory first in the morning picked, plaintiff said, the best masks, and others sometimes had to wear a mask with the elastic broken. On behalf of the defendants it was contended that the plaintiff should have brought his action under the Workmen's Compensation Act. It was further submitted that the accident arose through the plaintiff's own fault in having his eyes exposed, although a guard was provided for him. The plaintiff, like others, was in the habit of putting the guard on his forehead, and slipping it over his eyes when he saw the foreman coming. After a long hearing the jury found for the defendants, and judgment was given accordingly.

THE CHEMIST AND HIS GLOVES.

AT the Southport County Court on February 5, Mr. William Butterfield, chemist, carrying on business at Blackburn, and residing at Southport, sued the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company for the return of a pair of gloves. From the evidence submitted it appeared that the plaintiff recently travelled in a first-class compartment from Blackburn to Southport. On alighting at Ash Street, Mr. Butterfield left his gloves behind. He at once informed one of the station-officials, who telegraphed to Central Station (the terminus), where the gloves were taken care of. On the following day the gloves were tendered to the plaintiff, and a charge of 6*d.* was made. The plaintiff declined to pay this, or even the cloak-room charge of 2*d.*, which was afterwards demanded. The company refused to give up the gloves until the charge was paid, and the present action was the outcome. The company contended that, as they had rendered a certain service to the plaintiff as a result of his own forgetfulness, they were entitled to some remuneration. The plaintiff denied that he had asked the station-officials to telegraph to Central Station; it was quite a voluntary act. His Honour said, although the amount at issue was small, an important principle was involved, and he therefore reserved judgment.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

SWEET SPIRIT OF NITRE.

AT Sherburne County Sessions on January 30, Eliza Oldfield, grocer, Church Fenton, was fined 1*s.* and 1*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* costs for selling sweet spirit of nitre which contained 1.16 per cent. excess of water. Defendant said she sold the drug as she received it from Mr. E. Boothman, wholesale drysalter, Call Lane, Leeds, about a year before.

CAMPHORATED OIL.

AT Dunkinfield Police Court on January 31, Isaac Wright, drysalter, Astley Street, was fined 2*s.* 6*d.* and costs for selling camphorated oil which Mr. Carter Bell, public analyst, certified to be 40 per cent. deficient in camphor, and to contain 84 per cent. of mineral oil instead of olive oil. For the defence it was stated that the oil had been in stock for four years. It had been bought from Mr. Wolstenholme, chemist and druggist.

AT the same Court, Joseph Thompson, medical herbalist, was similarly summoned. In this case a 4½*l.* bottle was purchased, and the analyst certified that the drug was deficient in camphor to the extent of 42 per cent. Defendant complained that the quantity purchased was not properly divided by the inspector. He made the oil himself of camphor and pure olive oil. When the oil was divided into three parts it brought his percentage down a great deal. He made it in a 2-lb. bottle, putting the camphor in first and the oil on top, and then warmed it. It was liable to evaporate, and he believed it was a little short of camphor now it had come to be divided and analysed. Asked what standard he acted upon, defendant said if 2-oz. standard

were taken and only $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. were submitted to the analyst it brought the percentage down. The inspector said the standard was $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz. camphor, and oil of lavender one fluid drachm (*sic*). The Chairman of the Bench told defendant that the volume did not alter the case at all. Defendant argued that it did, but the Clerk advised the Bench that there was no option but to convict, as the article sold was not of the quality and substance asked for; and defendant was fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

SALICYLIC ACID IN GINGER-WINE.

At the Liverpool City Police Court on February 6, before Mr. Stewart, the Stipendiary Magistrate, Campbell Paterson and Walter Paterson, of Glasgow, were summoned under Section 6 of the 1875 Act, for selling ginger-wine which contained 13 gr. of salicylic acid to the pint. Messrs. Paterson are manufacturers of British wines, but the summons was originally issued against a Liverpool shopkeeper in Brownlow Hill, and Mr. Stewart allowed it to be altered as above. Mr. Sanders prosecuted on behalf of the Liverpool Health Committee. Mr. Tobin defended, and Mr. Rudd represented the shopkeeper. This is the third occasion on which a wine made by Messrs. Paterson has been made the subject of a summons, in each case because salicylic acid was used as a preservative. The first summons was dismissed by Mr. Stewart, and the second by his deputy. Now, when Mr. Sanders had stated the nature of the prosecution, the Stipendiary remarked that if the quantity of salicylic acid mentioned was not likely to affect injuriously the delicate constitution of the consumer or affect any person injuriously, he would feel inclined not to convict, but he would certainly convict if it was proved to the contrary. Mr. Collingwood Williams, public analyst, proved his analysis, and gave it as his opinion that the addition of salicylic acid was necessary. This was the very point which the Magistrate wished to be made clear, and he tried in vain to get the expert witnesses on both sides to agree amongst themselves, but that could not be done. Professor Boyce and Professor Poore then gave evidence, chiefly physiological, as to the injurious effect of salicylic acid on the system. They were cross-examined by Mr. Tobin, who showed much skill in handling the witnesses and in soothing the Bench. Dr. McAllister, Dr. Bradshaw, and Dr. Bickerton next testified on behalf of the defendants. Dr. Bickerton stated that he had been drinking the wine daily for a month, and it was harmless. This so impressed the Magistrate that he asked the doctor, "If I came to you as a patient and asked you, 'Will Paterson's wine do me harm or good if I drink it?' would you recommend me to take or avoid it?"

"Take it, of course. It would do you good."

"Would that apply to a sick person or invalid as well?"

"Equally. It is a good thing for them."

"Would you give it to your children without fear of the salicylic acid injuring them?"

"Certainly: diluted with water it makes a pleasant drink."

Mr. Tobin was about to call expert evidence (Mr. Tatlock, Glasgow, and Dr. F. W. Passmore, London) to prove that the addition of salicylic acid to fruit-juices especially, and ginger-wine of a temperance character, is essential, when Mr. Stewart intimated that from the medical evidence for the defence he was satisfied that salicylic acid as used by the defendants—13 gr. to the pint—was not injurious. The case was therefore dismissed.

Mr. Tobin applied for costs, which Mr. Stewart refused. "It is a splendid advertisement for your clients," he said. "They can print a portrait of Dr. Bickerton, with the inscription 'I take Paterson's wine daily,' and scatter it all over Liverpool."

Pharmacy Act, 1868.

THE LIVERPOOL CASES.

OUR Liverpool reporter informs us that the fines inflicted upon chemists' assistants in Liverpool last month for the sale of poisons contrary to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, have been paid. It will be remembered that in the first case (*C. & D.*, January 12, page 60), Judge Collier ordered imprisonment for three months in default of payment, but in the other cases (*C. & D.*, January 26), no such orders were made, and Mr. Nield, on behalf of the

Pharmaceutical Society, intimated that if the amounts were not paid within the time ordered (fourteen days), he would apply for the attachment of any defendant who might be in default, but all the fines were paid within fourteen days.

Bankruptcy Reports.

Re FERDINAND SCHOELLES, Prestwich, Merchant.

THIS debtor came up for public examination at Manchester on February 4. He stated that though the business he carried on at 32 Queen Street, Manchester, was nominally Schoelles & Brown, dealers in aniline dyes and chemicals, they were only acting as agents for Messrs. Leopold Cassella & Co., of Frankfort-on-Main. He gave details of his connection with the Frankfort firm, and admitted that the bulk of his liabilities (total 1,515/.) was for personal debts.

Re WM. SEARLE PARROTT, Watford, Chemist.

FROM the Official Receiver's observations it appears that the debtor in 1880, having then capital to the amount of about 400/., purchased the business of a chemist, carried on at 79 High Street, Watford, for 250/.; that six months ago he commenced to carry on a similar business at 61 The Broadway, Queen's Road, Watford, and that recently the takings at both premises had been about 10/., and 1/., per week respectively. The bankrupt attributes his position to "keen competition in trade and losses on the Stock Exchange." The books used comprise a day book and sold ledger. No accounts with creditors have been kept, and no profit and loss accounts or balance-sheets appear to have been prepared. Almost all the unsecured debts are owing for goods obtained; these debts cover a period of the last four years. The creditor returned as "partly secured" holds a charge on a life policy. The immediate cause of the petition being filed was the fact that the Sheriff of Herts was in possession at both the above premises at the suit of two execution creditors.

Re RICHARD ENGLAND (trading as R. England & Co.), 36 Mark Lane, E.C., and Woodford, chemical-agent and merchant.

THE first meeting of creditors was held on February 5, at the London Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. E. L. Hough, Official Receiver. The debtor started on his own account early in 1893, with a capital of 400/., and traded down to December 7 last, when he executed a deed of assignment, and a fortnight later closed the business. For four years he acted as a director of the Gallow Hill Glue and Chemical Company (Limited), and up to Christmas last he was a director of England's Chemical-manufacturing Company, which he promoted in November, 1899, to take over a part of his business. As vendor he was entitled to 700/., in cash and 4,000/., in shares of the company, for which, as well as for the Gallow Hill Glue and Chemical Company (Limited), he also acted as agent. No accounts have been filed, but the debtor roughly estimates his unsecured debts at 5,000/., and has not yet ascertained the value of his assets, which include book debts 1,000/., and various shares in the above-mentioned companies. The failure is attributed to losses on the trading and bad debts. No offer was submitted by the debtor, and a resolution was passed for Mr. Wilson, accountant, to act as trustee and administer the estate in bankruptcy, assisted by a committee of inspection. The public examination of the debtor is appointed for February 28.

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

Jackson, T. S., and Buchanan, A. G., under the style of Jackson & Buchanan, Liss, Hants, physicians and surgeons.

Mannox, E. D., and Howard, F., under the style of F. Howard & Co., Great Portland Street, W., consulting ophthalmic opticians.

Simons, C. E. G., and Pechell, H. J., under the style of Simons and Pechell, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorganshire, surgeons and medical practitioners.

The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1890.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Blaker, Thomas Frederic Isaacson, Brighton, physician and surgeon.

Rapley, Henry Hampton, grocer and provision merchant.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Mackenzie, Kenneth Morell, Thaxted, Essex, and Stansted Essex, doctor of medicine.

Deed of Arrangement.

Collins, James Richard, Hart Road, and 16 Milton Street, West Hartlepool, drug-store proprietor. Trustee, William G. Sudbury, 53 Whitby Street, West Hartlepool, accountant. Dated, January 29; filed, February 4. Liabilities unsecured, 377l. 16s. 4d.; estimated net assets, 450l. The principal creditors are:—

	£	s.	d.
Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool ...	10	0	0
Collins, Mrs. E. J., West Hartlepool ...	50	0	0
Hill, Mrs., Greatham ...	52	0	0
Ismay, J., & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	10	0	0
Jack, R., West Hartlepool ...	35	0	0
Mitschke, E., West Hartlepool ...	15	0	0
Raines & Co., Stockton-on-Tees ...	21	0	0
Raines & Co., York... ..	26	0	0

New Companies & Company News.

COMPANY FEES.—It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the regulations made for the collection of fees payable to the Companies Registration Office, under Treasury Orders of 1866 and 1878, are revoked, and it is provided by the new order that all fees payable to the Registrar of joint-stock companies, shall be collected by means of impressed stamps, except in the case of copies of registered documents supplied to the public. In this case adhesive stamps of the description at present in use, bearing the words, "Companies registration," shall be affixed and cancelled by a hand stamp.

JAGO & JEROME (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with A. W. Watson, and to carry on the business of soap and perfumery makers, chemists, &c.

CHURCHMAN & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on a business which includes engineers, shipowners, wire-drawers, chemists, &c.

EGYPTO SYRIAN MEDICINE COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire the rights and interest of E. N. Tabet, of Beyrouth, chemist, in a medicinal solution for affording relief and the cure of vomiting arising from cases of hysteria anorexia, known as "Dr. Tabet's Solution," and to carry on the business of patent and proprietary-medicine manufacturers, drug and chemical merchants, &c. The first subscribers are:—P. Pully, 65 Gresham Road, Brixton, clerk; W. L. Seaborne, 2 Vicarage Road, Camberwell, clerk; J. Hopwood, M.E., 60 Queen's Road, Twickenham; H. G. Fromm, 11 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., clerk; E. Pare, 77 and 78 Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad Street, E.C., merchant; E. G. Tassell, 47 Cumberland Street, S. Belgravia, clerk; H. Dunn, 20 Ashlin Road, Stratford, E. Registered office, 80A Coleman Street, E.C.

SCOTTISH ARMY, NAVY, AND GENERAL STORES (LIMITED).—A petition has been presented to the Court of Session, Edinburgh, for the winding-up of this company, and for the appointment of an official liquidator.

JEVES' SANITARY COMPOUNDS COMPANY (LIMITED).—At the annual meeting of this company, after making provision for depreciation, &c., and placing 4,500l. to reserves, a dividend was declared at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 5 per cent., 2,084l. being carried forward.

LIVERPOOL BORAX COMPANY (LIMITED).—The first general meeting of this company was held at Liverpool, on January 18. A fair number of the shareholders were present, who were shown over the works by the manager, and they seemed satisfied with the progress the company was making. At the meeting held subsequently the chairman informed the shareholders that the repairs were now nearly complete, and the works had been started. They were now delivering some borax, and the directors hoped to have something to put before them in the way of a dividend at the next general meeting.

ELECTRIC CHEMICAL COMPANY 1900 (LIMITED).—In the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on February 1, Mr. Stewart Smith, on behalf of the debenture-holders, applied to Mr. Justice Farwell for the appointment of Mr. Robert Shaw as receiver of this company. The company was incorporated on February 14 last year, with a capital of 200,000l., to acquire chemical-alkali works at St. Helens and to work a new electrolytic process, and 40,000l. had been raised on debentures. The plaintiff was

the holder of 300 debentures, and the principal moneys became due if resolutions for winding-up were passed. On January 28 a special resolution was passed that the company should be wound up, and a meeting had been summoned for February 21 to confirm that resolution. There were unsecured creditors. Mr. Justice Farwell appointed the receiver as asked, and ordered him to complete security forthwith.

PARKE, DAVIS & Co.—At the annual meeting of the stockholders held in Detroit on January 15, a resolution was passed authorising the Board of Directors to issue \$300,000 in capital stock of the company, thus increasing the capital from \$1,200,000 to \$1,500,000. The par value of each share is \$25 but the selling-price is \$50, and present stockholders in the company are given the option of purchasing shares to the extent of 25 per cent. of their present holdings. The object of the issue is, in the first instance, to wipe off the company's entire indebtedness and place it in a position beyond business vicissitudes and panics, but it has also been determined to carry out a scheme of extension on the scientific side of the business which has been in contemplation for some years. An elaborate science laboratory is to be erected for conducting botanical, chemical, bacteriological, and pharmacological research-work. This will be provided with every facility, and will be occupied by scientific workers who will be exempt from routine work. A good site has been selected, and as the architects have already begun their work it is hoped that the new building, which will probably contain three stories of large dimensions, will be ready for occupation by the science workers before the end of the year.

Trade Notes.

MR. THOS. P. BETHELL, camera manufacturer, 115 Islington, Liverpool, sends us copies of excellent photos showing two interiors in Ely Cathedral enlarged and reproduced from a quarter-plate negative taken with the 5s. "Crown" camera. Mr. Bethell is issuing these pictures as circulars, and also as mounted showcards. Photographic chemists will do well to write for specimens which will be sent post-free on receipt of postcard.

A SCHOOL PROSPECTUS.—The new prospectus issued from the London College of Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Botany, of 323 Clapham Road, S.W., indicates a healthy growth during the short period of the school's existence. The prospectus is profusely illustrated, the picture of the Botanic Garden on the sixth page being especially calculated to attract the student, who is not impressed (though we scarcely deem it probable) by the formidable list of candidates who during the past year have successfully gone "through the mill" with the aid of Mr. H. Wootton, B.Sc., and his coadjutors. A copy may be had by anyone desiring it by writing to the Secretary, at the College.

THE B.P. AS A STANDARD.—Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney (Limited), of Southwark Street, S.E., recognising the importance of last week's decision in the mercury-ointment case, have prepared a re-issue of Mr. John C. Umney's observations on "Difficulties of the British Pharmacopœia," 1898, which they published as a prices-current supplement in January, 1900, and have added to it notes on linseed oil, bismuth salicylate, liquefied carbolic acid, ammoniated mercury, and other articles which in the commercial way are not exactly obtainable as the B.P. requires. These "notes" are good reading for retailers, and especially for public analysts, at the present time, and they are prefaced with some remarks by Mr. Charles Umney on "The British Pharmacopœia as a Standard for the Public, Pharmacist, and Wholesale Druggist." In this, some remarks by Mr. Umney, in his presidential address to the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1887, are recalled, which remarks foreshadowed the principle underlying the decision by Mr. Justice Bruce and Mr. Justice Phillimore, and which has had practical expression by Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney for twenty-five years in the guarantee which they give with all B.P. articles. A copy of the pamphlet referred to will be sent to any of our subscribers who write to Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney (Limited) for it. It is well worth reading and filing for reference.

Proprietary-articles Trade Association.

A MEETING of the Council was held at the Holborn Viaduct Hotel on Wednesday, January 30. There were present:—Messrs. A. Cooper (in the chair), Geo. R. Barclay, F. W. Powell, W. Jones, A. Tebbutt, J. Shorrocks, E. P. Sanger, A. L. Newbery, James Hessel, P. F. Rowsell, Chas. Sanger, A. Andrews, T. Nicholls, and A. Hayman.

The Secretary read letters of apology for absence, one from the Daisy Company reporting the fatal accident to Mr. Ellis, the managing director. On the motion of the President, the Secretary was instructed to convey to the company the sympathy of the Council. The executive reported that since the last meeting of the Council fifty-four new members had joined the Retail Section and five Manufacturers.

MINIMUM PRICES.

It was also reported that in certain districts retail chemists had adopted the following list of prices:—

Size	Minimum Ret. Pr.	Size	Minimum Ret. Pr.
1 1/2 Atkinson & Barker's Infant Preservative ...	1/-	2/9 Kay's essence of linseed ...	2/6
2/9 do. do. ...	2/6	4/6 do. do. ...	4/-
4/6 do. do. ...	4/-	1 1/2 Kerr's horehound, honey, and tamarinds ...	1/-
2/9 Bow's liniment ...	2/6	2/9 do. do. ...	2/6
4 oz. Bromidia (stamp) ...	4/6	1 1/2 Towle's chlorodyne ...	1/-
4/- Fellow's syrup ...	3/4	2/9 do. do. ...	2/6
7/- do. ...	5/9	4/6 do. do. ...	4/-
9 1/2 d. Kay's essence of linseed ...	8 1/2 d.	1 1/2 Winslow's syrup ...	1/-
1 1/2 do. ...	1/-		

The undertaking (arranged by the P.A.T.A.) had proved a success.

"CHEAP PATENTS."

The Secretary reported that he had received from Mr. G. Coverdale, of York, a member of the Association, a letter enclosing papers and particulars regarding an offer of cheap patents which had been made in an advertisement in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST some months ago. On communicating with the advertiser Mr. Coverdale got quotations below the makers' prices, and he communicated with Mr. Glyn-Jones. As a result of their combined action they found that the address which the dealer gave in London, and used it on his business paper in a pretentious manner, was really a tobacconist's shop. The dealer was a chemist's assistant, and as a result of the inquiries it was ascertained that he had stolen the goods from his employer, who identified them but declined to prosecute. The Council of the Association decided to prosecute, subject to the approval of the solicitor, but the President suggested that in any event the facts ought to be made public. A resolution was passed instructing the Secretary to write to the trade papers suggesting that no persons inserting advertisements of this character should be allowed to use the office of the paper [for the purpose of receiving replies to advertisements] unless he was personally known to the publishers or was suitably introduced.

[This case is precisely similar in character to those which we have exposed during the past four months, and the Secretary of the Association is taking up the matter with his characteristic zeal. The advertisement cannot be traced, and we have not had dealings with the man. We may add that our publisher has been able, since we began to expose the thieving which is at the bottom of "cheap patents," to give material assistance in the detection of several culprits.—EDITOR.]

The Secretary reported that he had received letters from manufacturers requesting the Association to petition the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to provide, in addition to the present stamps,

A SMALLER SERIES OF PATENT-MEDICINE STAMPS, gummed and perforated suitable for attaching to small articles. It was found that the existing stamps, though quite suitable for certain articles, were very cumbersome for articles of a small character, and could often not be attached to the article without obliterating the manufacturers' labels

and other printed matter. It was decided to send such a recommendation to Somerset House. It was also reported that a number of letters had been received by members of the Association from the International Plasmon Company (Limited), asking their advice about protection, and that these members had advised the company to add their articles to the P.A.T.A. list. The company had since informed the Secretary that they were unable to allow a larger guaranteed profit than 5 per cent. to the wholesaler and 15 per cent. to the retailer.

Deaths.

AUSTIN.—On February 1, at "Belleville," Cheltenham Mr. Alfred Austin, pharmaceutical chemist, formerly of Malvern. Aged 43.

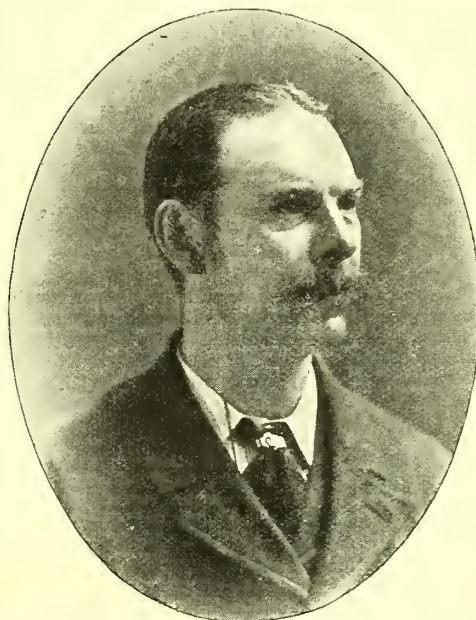
BUTTERWORTH.—At Newark, N.J., on January 21, Mr. J. H. Butterworth, of the firm of Butterworth & Judson, chemical-manufacturers, Newark, N.J. Aged 68. Mr. Butterworth was born in Manchester, and emigrated to America in 1852. He first settled in Boston, but went to Passaic, New Jersey, thirty-seven years ago, where he was interested in the Dundee Chemical Company. He founded the firm at Newark, N.J., fourteen years ago. Mr. Butterworth was a member of the Board of Trade, the Chemical Manufacturers' Association, and various other organisations. He leaves a widow and one son.

DAVIES.—At Wrexham, on January 29, Mr. John Davies, chemist and druggist. Aged 85. Mr. Davies was the oldest chemist, and one of the oldest tradesmen, in Wrexham.

DAVIS.—At Streatham, on January 25, Mr. John Oliver Davis, chemist and druggist, formerly of St. Leonards-on-Sea. Aged 75.

GILES.—At Newport (Mon.), on January 10, Albuera Susannah Constance (Connie), eldest daughter of Mr. W. F. Giles, pharmaceutical chemist. Aged 18.

HOWARD.—On February 3, at Menton, Colonel Samuel Lloyd Howard, C.B., V.D., D.L., J.P., of "Goldings," Lough-ton. Aged 73. The deceased gentleman was the son of Mr.



Robert Howard, and grandson of Mr. Luke Howard, F.R.S., who with Mr. William Allen, F.R.S., founded in 1797 the chemical-manufacturing business, which is now known as Howards & Sons. Colonel Howard was born at Tottenham on December 13, 1827, and was educated privately, afterwards studying chemistry at University College under Professor Thomas Graham and Dr. Williamson. He joined Messrs Howards & Sons in 1849, and remained associated with the business until 1897, when he retired. He was intimately

associated with the public life of Essex, having been a J.P. for more than forty years, chairman of the Beacontree Division Bench, Commissioner of Sewers for the same division, Commissioner of Income-tax, and a very prominent County man. Besides being well known as an all-round sportsman, his great interest in life was associated with the Volunteer movement, in which he took an active part from its commencement, and being in the first forty at the first Wimbledon meeting. He joined the 5th Essex (Beacontree) Rifles in 1859, being successively ensign and captain, and afterwards held a commission as Major in the 9th Essex Rifles. In 1874 he transferred to the 3rd Essex Artillery Volunteers (now 1st Essex) as Lieutenant-Colonel, and retired a few years since with the rank of Colonel and the Order of the Bath, being the first to receive the C.B. for Volunteer service. Colonel Howard was very fond of travel, and had visited India, Africa, North and South America, besides most parts of Europe. Many in the drug-trade will recall Colonel Howard's characteristic features from the portrait which we give of him as he was known to them. We observe that at the meeting of the Stratford bench on Tuesday, Colonel E. Garrett, the chairman, expressed the sincere regret and the grief that all connected with the court felt at the Colonel's death. The Colonel, he said, was a gentleman of undoubted energy, and never happy unless he was engaged in some public work. He had had the honour of serving under him for some years, and a more kind and better commanding-officer it would be impossible to find. Mr. Fred George also said a few words expressive of the sorrow felt by the legal fraternity practising at the court and in the county. He had seen many instances of the Colonel's kindly help and sympathy. The profession always met with respect at his hands, and his loss would be one not only to the Stratford bench, but to the county generally.

MUSHET.—At 14 Dean Terrace, Kilmarnock, N.B., on February 3, after a lingering illness, Robert Mushet, chemist and druggist. Aged 25.

REINHARDT.—At Douglas, on January 30, Mr. William Tyndale Reinhardt, pharmaceutical chemist. Aged 51. Mr. Reinhardt was until recently a member of the well-known Leeds firm of chemists founded by his father, the late Mr. Johann Christian Reinhardt. Mr. W. T. Reinhardt, who retired from business a few months ago (see *C. & D.*, November 17, page 793), was a musician of considerable ability.

SURR.—On January 22, Mr. Edward Surr, chemist and druggist, Southport. Aged 63.

Novelties.

"LONG JOHN."

This is a favourite brand of what is known north of the Tweed as "the Auld Kirk." Mr. Samuel Lawrence, chemist, Oban, has reproduced the bottle in miniature, with label and capsule exactly like the large original, but with sweet perfumes as contents. The miniature retails at 6d. a bottle.

HONEY IN TINS.

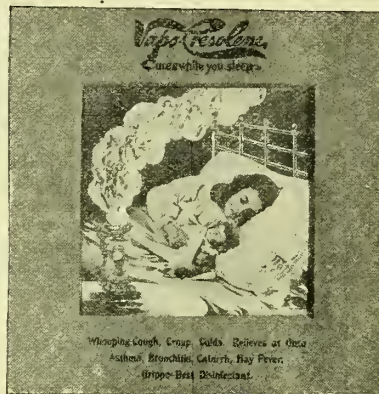
Messrs. Potter & Clarke, Artillery Lane, London, E., are putting upon the market an excellent brand of "White Clover Honey" in $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. and 1-lb. tins. The honey is perfectly clear and of fine flavour, and as it is put up in artistically enamelled tins in colours, it should command the attention of chemists, especially as this is apparently the first time honey has been placed upon the market for retailing in this form.

PORTABLE AMMONIUM-CHLORIDE INHALER.

It is not very easy to get new ideas in ammonium-chloride inhalers, but Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme, 27 High Street, Sheffield, has made a step towards simplicity in the portable inhaler which he is offering to the trade direct or through sundries' houses. It consists of mouthpiece, a thistle tube containing glass wool for the hydrochloric acid, and a sponge for the ammonia. The first two are inserted in a rubber cork, which is easily taken out and put in for renewing the charge of acid. Each inhaler is neatly packed in a box, to retail at 1s. 9d.

PRETTY SHOWCARDS.

Some time ago we described a new kind of photograph in which the figure is shown in relief. It did not appear to be thought much of when first introduced, but now the invention has caught on, and the latest example of it comes to us in a showcard for vapo-cresolené, which Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), Bethnal Green, E., are prepared to send



to any of our subscribers who ask for it. In this case the photograph is finished in colours, the picture being $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, and it is inserted in a grey mount 12 inches square, which has at the back a support that enables it to stand on the showcase or counter. As an attractive picture that illustrates a new departure in photography, and at the same time advertises a seasonable speciality, it deserves a place on the counter.

Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited) have also prepared a magnificent showcard for the Allenburys Foods. This is an oleographic reproduction of a painting representing a young mother, in Tudor-like costume, with a sleeping child on her left arm, who has just had a hearty meal of Allenburys No. 1 Milk Food. The colouring of the picture is exceedingly rich, and there is nothing of the kind now offered for exhibition quite so attractive.

SAVON MAUBERT.

That old favourite and economical Parisian soap, Althea, for which Messrs. C. Darke, Day & Co., 114 and 115 Fore



Street, E.C., are British agents, has recently been supplemented by two exquisite series of soaps also manufactured at the Savonnerie Maubert, Paris. For elegance of get-up they are truly Parisian, each cake of soap being finished as if by hand, and wrapped in tissue-paper, and an artistically coloured outer paper. The "Parfums Printaniers" series is put up three cakes in an illuminated box, 9 inches long by 4 inches broad, the interior being divided into three compartments. This series is obtainable in a variety of odours, such as rose, violet, and heliotrope, in triplets of one odour or assorted. "La Française" series is a soap made of the same basis, which we find to be an excellent and non-irritant detergent, and the perfume is rich, but the box for three tablets is not so large. The figures afford a sufficient contrast of the styles, and they in a measure show the designs. The soaps are stocked by Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons and other wholesale houses, as well as by the agents.





TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

Mr. Paterson's Bill.

SIR,—I have to thank you for calling attention to the Bill I had prepared for consolidating and amending the Pharmacy Acts. It will not be easy for your readers to offer effective criticism or judge of the advantages of such a Bill without having the text before them. Allow me to correct some misconceptions as to the scope of my Bill which you have given expression to in your article upon it. You make a quotation from the letter which I sent along with the Bill, in which I state that "medical practitioners should not be deprived of their present rights except by express enactment," and make the following comment on it: "This statement should be accepted with the reservation that the retailing of poisons in doctors' shops must be by registered persons." This need not be, as in Clause 26 I expressly give power to medical practitioners to keep open shop for the sale of poisons, and in a subsection in the same clause power is given to the doctor's qualified assistant to dispense poisons or medical prescriptions. That conserves all the present rights of medical men who are under no further restriction other than what applies equally to all persons keeping open shop, whether chemists or medical practitioners. Again, you say I extend the poison regulations to companies and medical men, omitting veterinary surgeons. If you refer to Clause 27, you will find that in the proviso at the end of that clause I bring them within the regulations. With reference to the question with which you conclude your article—viz., "Is it wise to risk the whole of the powers which they [chemists] already have by embarking on a scheme of codification which re-opens every principle embodied in the charter and the Pharmacy Acts?"—the Society would run no more risk of the kind, than they will do in promoting an amendment Bill. There can be no risk of the kind, because it is always open to the party promoting a Bill to stop it in its course if any amendment destructive of its character were carried. In that case the existing legislation stands. Judging from experience in municipal matters, I should say it would be much easier to pass a consolidating measure confirming existing legislation, with such further provisions as experience seemed to require, than a Bill simply amending former Acts. In answering the first question I have virtually answered the second as well.

Aberdeen, February 4.

JAMES PATERSON.

[Mr. Paterson says medical practitioners have the right of keeping open shop and selling poisons by unregistered persons. That is our paraphrase of his statement. The Scotch Courts have held the view expressed by Mr. Paterson to be wrong. The exemption afforded to a legally qualified apothecary is different from that given by the Act of 1869 to registered medical practitioners. In the former case it is the "business" that is exempted, and in the latter the "person."—EDITOR.]

Compound Tincture of Benzoin.

SIR,—I learn that a point in my evidence in the above case, reported in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of January 26, is open to misapprehension as reflecting on the general work of Mr. F. W. Fletcher. I hasten, therefore, in justice to Mr. Fletcher, as well as to myself, to explain that the remark "I pay no regard to his work at all" was intended to apply only to the subject in question—viz., Mr. Fletcher's published results, which are numerous, on the quantity of solid matter or residue in tinctura benzoini composita. I shall be obliged by your affording me the opportunity of making this explanation, and remain

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED HILL, M.D., F.I.C.,

Birmingham, February 5.

City Public Analyst.

SIR,—I fear that the zeal of Dr. Hill, the Birmingham analyst, may result in the establishment of an impracticable standard for tr. benzoini co., which may have in the end unpleasant results for all pharmacists. Everybody who has watched the proceedings of public analysts is aware that once attention is directed to an article, it is swooped down on everywhere, and analysts and their assistants become familiar with the methods for its assay. Hundreds of other articles may stand in much more crying need of being sampled, but the average analyst does not care to leave the beaten track until the fashion has been set. Dr. Hill holds that 180 grammes is even a low estimate for the residue which should be yielded by 1,000 c.c. of tincture of benzoin. This means that 1 oz. should yield 864 gr. Personally I have never tested a tincture which showed more than 70 gr., and I believe that the average is not more than 65. The subject has already been treated by many of your contributors, and 15 per cent. was, I think, the highest average which anyone deemed it should yield. There are, I believe, 10,000 chemists more or less, in Great Britain and Ireland, of whom each presumably retails tincture of benzoin. Now if these gentlemen take the trouble to test the residue left after the evaporation of 1,000 minims, I will venture to assert that in not 5 per cent. of the cases where the article is freshly made will it be found to be 180 gr.—and Dr. Hill stigmatises this as a low limit. Unless, therefore, the standard be modified, thousands of chemists have a prosecution staring them in the face, if only the public analysts sample their Friar's balsam. There are some prominent passages in Dr. Atfield's "Digest" which seem to bear directly on the present question, e.g.:—

It would be delusive to the medical practitioner, unfair to the pharmacist, and prejudicial to the interest of the patient to require officially that a given tincture shall yield a given proportion of "extractive" or total solids *quâ* extractive or total solids.

No data were available, or ever could be broadly available, as to the extent to which a tincture in a dispensing-bottle might lose alcohol in the exigencies of dispensing and of sale, hence it would be unfair to the pharmacist to give the sp. gr. as one of the official characters of a tincture, more especially in the presence of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act; for, indeed, such a character might be misleading instead of helpful to a magistrate.

Undoubtedly much of the variation in the results yielded by tincture of benzoin is due to the use of a gum which does not answer the B.P. tests. I do not remember having ever seen a sample of gum benzoin which was "almost entirely soluble in 90-per-cent. alcohol," and believe that the existence of such is highly hypothetical. The Editor of the B.P. himself seems to have a hazy adumbration of this view, for he states that whilst even an official limit of 10 per cent., as suggested by Evans and Dunlop is not permissible, yet benzoin containing the usual proportion of bark, &c. (1 to 30 per cent.), may be used if allowance is made for this latter. Now, it is quite obvious that the sp. gr. and total solids of a tincture of benzoin made according to the Pharmacopœia must vary if we operate on 2 oz. of almost entirely soluble benzoin, or on 2 oz. *plus* 30 per cent. of woody matter. That quantity of woody matter would absorb as much tincture as would make the final product about 5 per cent.

Dublin, January 26.

Yours truly,

J. C. MCWALTER.

[Is there any reason why retailers should not stipulate the minimum of alcohol-insoluble matter when they buy benzoin? Few samples of the better qualities of Siam gum contain more than 5 per cent. insoluble, and only the lower qualities of Sumatra contain more than 10 per cent. The supply of such benzoin is a question of price and specification.—EDITOR.]

The Pharmacopœia as a Standard.

SIR,—The most recent judicial decision on the B.P. as a standard for the retail druggist places that individual in an awkward and unenviable position. Thus, if he is asked for—

Linsed Oil.—He must supply an article answering the B.P. tests (solubility in 10 parts of 90-per-cent. alcohol). But there is no such thing obtainable, actual, or possible.

Benzoin.—None of the commercial varieties are up to the tests; they contain from 1 to 30 per cent. of woody matter.

Gum Acacia.—The chemist dare not now supply for this anything but the finest quality, entirely soluble in water.

Nitre.—Tons are sold of a substance excellent for practical

purposes, but which will show traces of chlorides, sulphates, sodium, &c. The sale of such is now penal.

Bismuthi Salicylas.—It is impossible to prepare an article answering the alcohol tests, but a chemist may be fined, disgraced, and ruined if he does not do so.

Liq. Ferri Perchloridi Fort.—All the manufacturers state that an article corresponding to the given tests and sp. gr. is impossible of preparation.

Borax.—The ordinary salt, excellent for all ordinary purposes, contains traces of iron, calcium, magnesium, carbonates, nitrates, &c.; therefore it can no longer be retailed.

Calc Chlorinata should correspond to 33 per cent. of available chlorine. How much of that of commerce, after lying in paper for twelve months, will do this?

Gelatin.—No gelatin is known which complies with official requirements, and the Editor of the B.P. excuses these by saying that the standard only applies to gelatin used in medicine; but it seems one can be prosecuted if he does not supply this impossible quality when gelatin is called for.

Hæmatoxyli Lignum.—The acme of absurdity is reached when you cannot sell a pennyworth of the ordinary dark colour and fermented chips for "logwood," for the B.P. states the coarse powder or chips should be "unfermented."

Sodii Bicarbonas.—One can be prosecuted, it seems, for retailing the ordinary bicarbonate of soda, for it will hardly come up to the mercuric-chloride reaction. Every chandler in the three kingdoms must likewise be mulct if a customer should choose to ask for washing-soda as "carbonate of sodium."

Unguentum Belladonna.—This is almost impossible to preserve strictly B.P., as extracts vary in consistency. To evaporate to only half the volume, as the Editor suggests, might entail a prosecution.

Yours truly,

J. C. MCWALTER.

Dublin, February 2.

SIR,—“A penn'orth of blue unction” or “a penn'orth of troopers' ointment” is what the ordinary customer—the real customer, not an informant—asks for. He generally wants it to decimate the clinging louse, *Pediculus pubis*. He does not desire an ointment to risk salivation; he wants a weak mercurial ointment—salvation from scratching.

Mr. Danckwerts says the defendant “kept two qualities”; I should say, rather, he kept two strengths of equally good quality. The Pharmacopœia, constructed by learned men, said one unguentum hydrargyri would suffice—the physician could reduce it easily if required; but most traders still keep the milder ointment for safe general sale—at a loss to themselves, seeing that one-half goes rancid long before the other is sold in odd pennyworths.

Failing to spot arsenic in beer until after the damage was done, wishing to justify the employment of paid officials, the guileless trader is trapped (Mr. Russell “does not suggest it,” but the fact remains) by an agent who artfully does not ask as the public ask, but demands “two ounces of mercury ointment.” Mr. Danckwerts says “we are assumed to know the law.” Are we, then, to enter into a learned disquisition with each customer, keep a lawyer in the back shop, and submit each customer's request in writing for his decision? “Do you want the mercurial ointment, the unguentum hydrargyri of the British Pharmacopœia” (which the customer will think some new form of De Wet), “or do you desire, as I should recommend, the unguentum hydrargyri mitius—the milder mercurial ointment of 1836 Pharmacopœia—which is the most suitable to your requirements?” Are we to do this for a penny, or are we, seeing the scouts are abroad, to write elaborate labels—

DILUTED BLUE OINTMENT
(not the B.P. preparation),
commonly called
“BLUE UNCTION.”

I take it the object of the law is to protect the public—to see they get what they want, and not what a paid inspector thinks they want; not to manufacture convictions, unsettle the public mind, set a-rolling alarmist paragraphs in the halfpenny papers, and enable officials to appear zealous.

The legal twistings of the sub-titles of the various Acts—Pharmacy Acts, Food and Drugs Acts, &c.—are profitable business for lawyers, but though “we are assumed to know the law,” I should like to mention that it is a well-known fact that though Mr. Justice Phillimore does not hold the record, he comes high up in the list of reversed decisions; and I think this is a case where “the only Jones” might see if another could not be added to his record.

Yours faithfully,

Harrogate, February 4.

JOHN H. WILSON.

SIR,—Allow me to draw your readers' attention to the Skipton ointment-case, reported in last week's *C. & D.* The case, *in toto*, bristles with points of interest to chemists throughout his Majesty's dominions, and should engage the concern of all who have the rights of chemists, hardly won, at heart. The trained authority of the medical profession, and the developed perception of the Anglo-Saxon chemist, agree to proscribe the strong official 48.5-per-cent. preparation, and submit to ordinary use a diluted mercurial ointment, which was supplied to the inspector. This inspector, not himself a chemist, tendered no medical prescription affixed neither B.P. nor P.B. to his request, and defined no strength, and no purpose for which required. He himself asserts that he asked for mercury ointment. The young apprentice who took his order whilst I was dispensing, asserts that he asked for mercurial ointment, which is not a synonym in the B.P. Now, Sir, it is for us to here maintain that the claims of educated chemists are ridiculed. There might as well be no colleges, no societies, no civil positions for chemists. If we are to be bound like so many mediæval serfs to supply what may easily prove to be an injurious preparation for promiscuous use, when mercurial or even mercury ointment is asked for, it is time for us to ask colleges, societies, and communities to pay back all the money we have paid them, that we may enjoy under some other banner a heaven of freedom where individual judgment is not scouted. In the first Empire of the world I look for final justice—the justice of the well-governed commonwealth. The lions of the British may well awake, then, sir, and awake to the cause of pharmacy. So, Sir, I ask my *confrères* to discuss in your columns all facts bearing upon the Skipton ointment-case.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK DICKINS.

The Shop.

SIR,—I was very interested in your article appearing in the *C. & D.* of January 26, in which you introduced us to the interiors of some well-known pharmacies. Two points occur to me in this connection: (1) We urgently need some better method of stocking the legion of small sundries now required at the dispensing-counter than that of the usual “Poison-case.” It occurs to me that a wall-cabinet, having sliding doors and fitted with pigeon-holes of varying sizes, each to take one bottle laid on side, would be an improvement. These pigeon-holes could be numbered, and a ready reference-list kept. Has this been tried by anyone? (2) In the matter of shop-rounds, I have an impression that a series in amber colour or actinic green would look well, help to preserve the contents, and show up the background better than the miscellaneous tints now seen in our shops. Has anyone seen this tried? I am anxiously waiting to read of the ideal stove for warming and general pharmaceutical operations, for which a *C. & D.* correspondent recently asked.

Yours truly,

Nottingham, February 4.

A. EBERLIN.

[These are matters which are worthy of discussion—EDITOR.]

Prussic Acid and Boracic Acid.

SIR,—Instead of prussic acid for cleansing feeding-bottles, supply boracic acid, and all will be well with the baby. I have known of prussic acid being asked for verbally instead of boracic acid, as the sound is somewhat similar. Many people know of prussic acid, but have never heard of boracic acid; so they guess at it, and throw the responsibility on the chemist.

G. BROWN.

[We have received other replies to the same effect.—EDITOR.]

“Poison-bottles Wanted.”

SIR,—The paragraph under the above heading, which appeared in your issue of February 2 (page 200), has suggested to us, as makers of the “Practical Poison-bottle,” that pharmacists all over the country have just now a very fine opportunity of asserting their legal position as purveyors of poisons by taking an active part in submitting specimens of likely poison-bottles to coroners, district-councils, and public officials. Any pharmacist wishing to submit specimens of the “Practical Poison-bottle” may have them (and leaflet), free of charge, on applying to any of the firms whose address will be found on the special coloured illustrated insert (between pages 32 and 33) in the

Winter issue of your esteemed journal. We were surprised to read that "there was a difficulty in getting blue bottles," as we have never found any difficulty in meeting all demands.

Yours truly,

THE MANUFACTURERS OF THE
"PRACTICAL POISON-BOTTLE."

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

49/40. *Subscriber*.—Volume 3 of Lunge's "Treatise on the Manufacture of Sulphuric Acid and Alkali" deals with bleaching-powder and chlorate of potash. The price of the volume is 24s.; it is published by Van Voorst.

39/41. *Shampoo*.—Dry Shampoo:—

Alcoholic ammonia ...	...	...	...	3iv.
Tincture of quillaia ...	...	...	...	3iv.
Ess. bouquet... ..	...	...	...	3ij.
Rectified spirit ... ..	...	...	...	3vij.

Rub a little well into the head, and rinse with a larger quantity then rub dry with a soft towel.

44/30. *H. P.*—Preservative Salt for butchers' use:—

(1)

Borax ... ..	...	...	...	3x.
Boric acid ... ..	...	...	...	3j.
Salt ... ..	...	...	...	3vj.

Mix.

(2)

Borax } of each equal parts.
Salt }

45/18. *A. R.*—Unna's Paste:—

Tragacanth ... ..	...	...	...	3iiss.
Gelatin ... ..	...	...	...	3ij.
Glycerin ... ..	...	...	...	3vj.
Thymol ... ..	...	...	...	gr. 4
Distilled water ... ..	...	...	...	q.s.

Put the tragacanth and gelatin in a covered jar with water 10 oz. Place in a steam-bath for twenty-four hours; press the paste through muslin, mix, add the glycerin, heat on a water-bath for an hour, and make up to 12 oz. with water in which the thymol is dissolved.

49/47. *Acetum*.—It does not require a formula to make sodium-carbonate Water-softener. The soda crystals, Crescent brand, are obtainable ready tinted, and are perfumed by spraying with an alcoholic perfume. "Anticalcaire" contains, according to the patent, alum, lime, and sodium carbonate.

49/33. *W. W. R.*—Engravers' Wax for filling letters on brass plates—This has a similar composition to sealing-wax. We have seen brass-plate makers using sealing-wax for the purpose.

52/29. *Climax*.—Fish-glue is prepared from fish-skins by a process resembling that used in preparing glue from bones. The fish-skins are first freed from salt, after which the gelatin is dissolved out by steam and the solution evaporated.

Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of the subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

1/2. Where can a supply of mylabris be obtained?

1/1. *H. E. H.*—Name and address of manufacturers of diabetic beer.

MESSRS. LEHN & FINK, of New York, have been appointed sole selling agents there for the Eisner & Mendelson Company's preparations. The Company are the sole American agents for Carlsbad salts, Carlsbad water, Jobann Hoff's malt-extract, and other popular medicinal articles.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: February 7.

QUININE is the principal topic of the week, the slight move on the part of makers on Monday having led to a considerable business at advanced rates. Rather better prices have been paid for ipecac since the auctions, and a fair business has been done in both Rio and Cartagena root. The market for Spanish ergot has been practically cleared at rates previously ruling, and for what little is now offered more money is asked. A small and uninteresting auction of vanilla was held this week at which higher prices ruled; shellac was also in small supply in auction, and sold at unchanged rates, while at the offerings of cocoa butter there was a decline. Citric acid is firmer to-day. The following table shows the principal alterations of the week:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Cumin-seed	Acid, citric	Oil, palm	Cocoa butter
Galls	Ipecac.	Rosin	Oil, castor
Quinine	Petroleum	Tin crystals	Oil, linseed
Vanilla		Turpentine	

Arrivals.

The following drugs, &c., have arrived at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from January 30 to February 6 (both inclusive):—Aloes (Cape), 26; antimony (@ Kobe), 70; balsams (@ Trinidad), 4 cases; benzoin, 72; buchu, 22; calumba, 209; cardamoms, 37; caraway-seed, 235; castor oil, (Belg.) 28, (E.I.) 1459; cinchona, 34, (@ Ceylon) 188; cochineal, 45; cod-liver oil, 393; cream of tartar, 52; dragon's blood, 3; drugs (@ Callao) 8 cases (@ Cartagena) 20 packages, (@ Trieste) 52, (@ Fiume) 20; essential oils (@ Messina), 10 cases, 106 packages, (@ Palermo), 18 packages, 14 cases; galls (Persian), 193 bags, *in tr.* 62; ginger (@ Jamaica), 59 packages, (@ Hong Kong), 200 casks; gum arabic (@ Alex.), 190, (@ Aden), 83; gum, unenumerated (@ Trieste), 13; gum tragacanth, 446 cases; honey, 10 cases, (Chil.), 154; kola (W.C.A.), 12; lemon juice (conc.), 21; lemon oil, 3; lime oil (W.I.), 7; liquorice-juice (@ Genoa), 30 cases, (@ Bari), 29 cases, (@ Naples), 104 cases, (@ Marseilles), 32 cases; liquorice root (@ Marseilles), 240; menthol (@ Yokohama), 33; opium (@ Genoa), 4 cases, (@ Bushire), 78, (@ Smyrna), 35, (@ Constantinople), 12; otto of rose, 2; papaw-juice, 2; peppermint, 10 cases; rhatany, 56; senna (Alex.), 60, (@ Suez), 75; tartaric acid, 152 packages; vanilla (@ Aden), 7; wax, bees' (Span.), 28, (Ital.), 10; wax, Carnauba, 53.

Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for market centres other than London.]

A quiet but steady tone is the prevailing feature of the heavy chemical market just at present. Inquiries are fairly plentiful, and business is resulting from a good proportion of same. Export business is still on the dull side, but the home trade demand is well maintained. As regards home consuming trades, paper-makers, dyers, and carpet-manufacturers are all fairly busy and well employed. Bleachers and calico-printers are somewhat quiet. The pottery trades and glass-manufacturers are also quiet, but there are signs of an early improvement. For the time of year the paint and colour trades are pretty brisk. Soapmakers have little to complain of, there being a very steady demand both for manufacturing and domestic soaps.

ALKALI PRODUCE.—Business in this branch remains practically unchanged from recent reports, both as regards the volume passing and prices ruling.

BROWN ACETATE OF LIME, although somewhat quiet, is steadily maintained at 5*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton, ex ship.

PEARL HARDENING.—In steady demand, at 3*l.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* per ton.
SATINITE.—Moving well, and firm at 3*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.* per ton, free on board or free on rails, in usual casks.

TIN CRYSTALS.—Quiet and easier, at 8½*d.* to 9*d.* per lb.
PHOSPHOROUS.—Steady and unchanged, wedges, 2*s.*; sticks, 2*s.* 1*d.* per lb. Amorphous, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 7*d.* per lb.

BORAX AND BORACIC ACID.—Firmly maintained at unchanged rates. Borax crystals, 17*s.* per cwt.; and powdered, 18*s.* per cwt. Boric acid, 26*s.* and 28*s.* per cwt. for crystals and powdered respectively.

LINSEED AND COTTONSEED CAKES.—In brisk request, and prices very firm. Linseed cakes, 95-per-cent. pure, 8*l.* 15*s.* to 8*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Oilcakes, 7*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Cotton cakes, best makes, 5*l.* to 5*s.* 5*s.* per ton, and seconds, 4*l.* 15*s.* to 5*l.*

BARIUM PRODUCTS continue in active request, and are very firm, being well maintained in price owing to higher costs of raw material. Witherite (mineral carbonate of barytes) is still practically unobtainable in anything but very small quantities, and high prices are being asked. Chloride of barium, best ordinary refined crystals, 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 7*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton, in bags, free on rails, with 5*s.* per ton extra for usual casks. Blanc fixe (pure precipitated sulphate of barium in paste form), 7*l.* 10*s.* to 8*l.* per ton, free on rails in casks. Hydrate of barium, very scarce and firm, at 14*l.* 10*s.* to 15*l.* 10*s.* per ton, ex stock in 6 to 7 cwt. casks. Sulphide of barium, crystals, in casks, 5*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* per ton. Sulphate of barytes, mineral ground, 50*s.* to 100*s.* per ton.

Liverpool Drug Market.

Liverpool, February 7.

CASTOR OIL.—Good Calcutta seconds has slightly receded in value owing to the arrival of the *Workman*, and sales have been made from the quay at 3½*d.*, but importers are now talking of 3½*d.* First-pressure French is arriving more freely, and sales are being made at 3½*d.*, second-pressure 3½*d.* to 3½*d.* Oil of Belgian pressing is obtainable at slightly under these figures.

BEESWAX.—Over 90 packages of Chilian have changed hands during the week at prices ranging from 7*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., according to quality; and 3 ballots of Gambia (W.C.A.) have also been sold at 7*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

CANARY-SEED has eased off slightly during the week, and sales have been made at 33*s.* 6*d.* to 34*s.* per quarter, for good bright Turkish.

ACACIA SORTS.—Further arrivals have taken place of 80 serons and 49 serons mixed grades. The sale is reported of a parcel of soft Soudan sorts at 6½*s.* per cwt., and a small parcel has found buyers at 6½*s.* per cwt.

QUILLAIA.—About 30 tons are said to have changed hands at 13*l.* 10*s.* to 13*l.* 15*s.* per ton. Holders are now very firm.

GINGER.—Thirty bags of fair old crop African were sold at 31*s.* per cwt.

CHILLIES, S.L.—Seventeen bags, constituting the first arrival of the new crop, will be offered at auction on Friday. There is expected to be considerable competition.

CHILIAN HONEY.—Sales of Pile X. in 10-keg lots are reported at 32*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; Pile I., 22*s.* to 29*s.*; Pile II., 25*s.* 6*d.* to 26*s.*; and Pile III., 25*s.* 6*d.*

LINSEED OIL is easing off, probably on account of the unsatisfactory reports from France, and to-day's value for Liverpool makes in export casks is now 28*s.* 6*d.* to 29*s.* per cwt.

TURPS.—A shade easier at 3*d.* decline, and the business passing is of limited extent.

KOLA.—Two tons of fair dried West Coast African sold at 2*d.* per lb.

OLIVE OIL is in limited request, but all grades are held very firmly at current prices in view of the unsatisfactory reports from the producing districts.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The sale is reported of 2 tons at 25*s.* per cwt.

ARSENIC.—Powdered white is offered at 18*l.* 10*s.* to 19*l.* per ton, net.

SULPHATE OF COPPER.—Steady at 25*l.* per ton from makers but second-hand lots might be obtained at a shade less.

German Drug Market.

Hamburg, February 5.

Business in general is very dull here and the navigation into the interior is still closed.]

ANTIMONY remains firm, at 32*m.* for Chinese and 35*m.* per 100 kilos. for Japanese.

CAMPHOR, REFINED, is unchanged and quiet, at 452½*m.* per 100 kilos.

CUMIN-SEED.—New-crop Maltese is quoted a trifle lower, at 64*m.* per 100 kilos.

CONDURANGO-BARK is still quiet, at last week's quotation—90*m.* per 100 kilos.

CEVADILLA-SEED is advancing, owing to more inquiry; to-day's quotation is 75*m.* per 100 kilos.

QUININE is decidedly better. The factories have raised their prices 2*m.* per kilo., and quote 39*m.* per kilo.

QUILLAIA is still advancing, and is now held at 29*m.* per 100 kilos.

AGAR-AGAR is firmer, and 395*m.* has been paid for prime strips. **CORIANDER-SEED.**—The stock of Mogador is exhausted on the spot, and forward goods are quoted at 27.50*m.* For Russian 25*m.* is asked.

ERGOT OF RYE is firm, in consequence of favourable news from the English market. Sound Russian is valued at 490*m.* to 500*m.*, and sound Spanish at 510*m.*

STAR-ANISE is reported higher from China. Spot is unchanged, at 135*m.* to 136*m.* Russian anise, of new crop, is in good demand, at 33*m.* to 34*m.*

CITRIC ACID.—Good business has been done to-day at 290*m.* to 295*m.* per 100 kilos.

LYCOPodium.—Up to 425*m.* has been paid, and the market, in consequence, is firmer.

MENTHOL is firmly held at 28.50*m.* to 28*m.*

IPECACUANHA is in better demand. Rio has been sold at 23*m.*, and Cartagena at 15.25*m.*

SENEGA is easier, at 390*m.* per 100 kilos.

SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE are dull, American spot selling at 53½*m.* to 53*m.* per 100 kilos.

WAX.—Japanese quiet at 58½*m.* per 100 kilos.

OILS.—Cod-liver is firm, new non-congealing oil being held at 70*m.* per barrel. Castor on the spot is steady, but slow of sale; first-pressing, in barrels, 66*m.*; May to August delivery, 60*m.* per 100 kilos. Essential oils are unchanged.

Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, February 7, 1.55 P.M.—Citric acid is firmer at 295*m.*, per 100 kilos. Menthol firm at 28½*m.* per kilo. Refined camphor is quiet at 450*m.* per 100 kilos. Ipecacuanha very firm, and turpentine dull.

* * * *

NEW YORK, February 7, 3.54 P.M.—The market here is active. Opium is dull of sale at \$3.40 per lb. Quinine active at 28*c.* per oz. for domestic make. Balsam copaiba higher at 38*c.* per lb. Senega neglected at 38*c.* per lb. for Minnesota root. Rio ipecac. is easy at \$2.55, and cannabiss indica is strong at 40*c.* per lb. Asafetida is scarce at 30*c.* per lb., and jalap is firm at 14*c.*

London Markets.

ACID, CARBOLIC.—Quiet. Ice crystals, 39° to 40° C., 9½*d.* per lb.; 34° to 35° C., 9*d.* Cresylic, 95 per cent., 1*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* per gallon. Crude, 60 per cent., 2*s.* 7*d.*; and 75 per cent., 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*

ACID, CITRIC.—To-day the market is much firmer, with buyers at 1*s.* 4*d.* spot, but no sellers under 1*s.* 4½*d.* Makers are not offering at the moment. Concentrated lemon-juice keeps rising, 18*l.* per pipe, c.i.f. London, being quoted from Messina, and still dearer prices are expected.

ARROWROOT.—There was no demand at the auction on Wednesday, and the whole quantity offered was bought in at 1½*d.* to 1¾*d.* per lb.

ASAFETIDA.—A few more cases of medium gum have been sold up to 65*s.* per cwt.

BENZON.—The parcel of very good Sumatra seconds offered in last week's auctions has since been sold at 8*l.* 5*s.* per cwt. Fine gum about 10*l.* is very scarce and wanted. Siam description is also scarce, fair seconds in loose almonds being held at 15*l.* 10*s.*, and pea size 8*l.* 10*s.*, which figures represent an advance of about 30*s.* on the last prices paid. About 50 cases Sumatra of direct import have arrived this week.

CINCHONA.—The exports from Java (according to the N. V. Nederl. Veem.) to Europe during January amounted to 1,000,000 Amst. lbs. against 615,000 in 1900, 509,800 in 1899, 956,000 in 1898, 390,000 in 1897, and 970,000 in 1896. The total weight of the 8,837 packages to be offered at Amsterdam on February 21 is 780,825 kilos, consisting of 391,760 kilos. Ledgeriana, 114,294 kilos. Succirubra, and 105,675 kilos. Hybrid. The exports from British India, for seven months ended October were:—

	1900	1899	1898
Lbs....	1,683,488	1,458,730	852,128

The exports from Holland for the eleven months ended November were:—

	1900	1899	1898
Kilos. ...	4,437,000	5,189,000	4,708,000

COCOA BUTTER sold at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb. lower prices in auction, 1,200 cases Cadbury's brand realising from $1s. 3d.$ to $1s. 4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. closing $1s. 3\frac{3}{4}d.$, and fine cases (3 oz. tablets at $1s. 4\frac{3}{4}d.$). The tone at the Amsterdam auctions was easier. The quantity offered was sold as follows:—75 tons Van Houten's at $84\frac{1}{2}c.$ to $88\frac{1}{2}c.$ (average price $85.45c.$) per half kilo.; 12 tons Helm $84\frac{1}{2}c.$, and 6 tons De Jong at $84c.$, while of 8,000 kilos. Mignon only 960 kilos. were sold at $84c.$. Since the auctions, $1s. 3\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb. has been paid privately.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Further small sales of reboiled lump have been made at $11l.$ per cwt.

ERGOT.—Since the auctions several parcels have changed hands, including Spanish at from $2s. 3d.$ to $2s. 6d.$ per lb., and the market of this description has been practically cleared. Russian has also sold at $2s. 4d.$. America seems to have been the principal buyer.

GALLS.—The position of Persian galls has again slightly improved, blues having sold at from $60s.$ to $65s.$ per cwt. spot as in quality, and forward delivery at $57s. 6d.$ c.i.f.

GUM TRAGACANTH is quieter after the recent activity, although there has been a fair inquiry for most of the lower grades. The market is now practically bare of stock of the better grades, but several shipments are near at hand.

IPECACUANHA is dearer, fair sales of both descriptions having been made, principally for speculative account. For Rio $10s. 8d.$ to $10s. 9d.$ has been paid in small lots, and Cartagena has sold at from $6s. 6d.$ to $6s. 9d.$. The first-hand stock of Rio is now offered by one broker only. About 20 packages of Cartagena have arrived this week, and another 20 are on the way. A feature of the auctions next week will be the offering of over 2 cwt. of ipecac. just arrived from Johore *via* Singapore.

MENTHOL has been in good demand principally for export, and stocks here have been appreciably reduced. Quotations range from $12s. 9d.$ to $13s.$, according to brand. Some 33 cases have arrived this week, but the bulk has been sold.

MUSK.—Very scarce; for first pile thin skin blue, $75s.$ per oz. is quoted, and for third pile, which is now mostly inquired for, $30s.$ to $35s.$ is asked.

OIL, BERGAMOT.—Last week's prices are being maintained, and are likely to be in view of the present scarcity. For a well-known make $10s. 2d.$ per lb., c.i.f., is quoted.

OIL, CASTOR.—Owing to heavy arrivals the market is lower generally. Hull make, for February delivery, is quoted $34l.$ for firsts and $33l.$ for seconds. March $32l.$ and $31l.$, April $31l.$ and $30l.$, and May to August delivery $30l.$ and $29l.$ per ton respectively, ex wharf London. Belgian of first pressing is quoted $30l.$ for delivery this month.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Already there are prospective offers of new oil on the London market, one agent quoting $70s.$, c.i.f., and another $80s.$, but the inside figure is likely to be nearer the mark for the opening of the season. Our Bergen correspondent writes on February 2, that continued rough weather has partially prevented fishing again this week, but judging from the experience already gained, the prospects still remain very promising. The earlier reports with regard to the quality of the cod and fatness of liver, were somewhat premature, for it now appears that both the quality and the liver are irreproachable. There are still no supplies of cod-liver oil at Bergen, and there has been no alteration in price. The total exports to date amount to $510\frac{1}{2}$ barrels against 306 barrels at the same time last year.

OPIMUM.—The London market remains firm and unchanged, about 30 to 35 cases changing hands in one quarter. Fine Salonica is worth $13s.$ to $13s. 6d.$, and manufacturing ditto $12s.$ per lb. Good druggists' is quoted $9s. 9d.$ to $10s.$. Some 78 cases of Persian have arrived this week, but they are mostly sold for arrival.

SMYRNA, January 25.—This has been a very active week, some 219 cases having changed hands as follows:—144 cases Adette and Karahissar at from $9s. 5d.$ to $9s. 8d.$ per lb.; 51 cases Yerli at $10s. 1d.$ to $10s. 2d.$; 18 cases choice Karahissar at $9s. 9d.$ to $9s. 11d.$, and 6 cases choice Yerli at $10s. 8d.$ per lb., c.i.f. The arrivals are 3,696 cases, against 2,452 cases at the corresponding

period of last year. The bulk of the above business was for American account, leaving about 20 cases for England and the Continent. The market closes firm, and should the present active demand continue prices may be expected to advance still further.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 1.—The week closes with considerable firmness owing to heavy purchases in Smyrna at advancing prices for American account. The reports of damage to the plants by frost have not as yet been substantiated, but milder weather having now set in, trustworthy news will be ere long obtainable. Sellers are scarce, and ask from $9s. 4d.$ to $9s. 6d.$ per lb. for druggists' grades.

QUININE.—The English and German makers of sulphate advanced their quotations on Monday by $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per oz., and now quote 1,000-oz. lots in 100-oz. tins at $1s. 2d.$ per oz. Messrs. Howards & Sons' price for this quantity is now $1s. 3\frac{1}{2}d.$. This advance has been due to a better consumption demand both on United States and home-trade account. Makers have sold small parcels at $1s. 2\frac{1}{2}d.$ for forward delivery. A corresponding rise has, of course, taken place in the secondhand market, and a good business has been done, including spot at $1s. 1\frac{3}{4}d.$ to $1s. 2d.$, March $1s. 2d.$, and May $1s. 2\frac{1}{4}d.$ to $1s. 2\frac{1}{2}d.$. To-day the market is slightly easier in second hands, $1s. 2\frac{1}{4}d.$ having been paid for May delivery and sellers thereat. In the United States P. & W. brand has been advanced to $30c.$

The exports from Java in September were 428 cases, of which 250 cases were shipped to the U.K., and the remainder to New York. The shipments from July 1 to September 30 have been:—

	1900	1899	1898
Cases ...	825	562	396

The export of quinine preparations, &c., from Germany during the eleven months ended November were:—

	1900	1899	1898
Kilos.	170,600	195,600	180,000

ROSIN.—Easier at $5s. 3d.$ to $5s. 6d.$ per cwt. for strained on the spot.

SEEDS.—Russian *Anise* is offering to arrive at $17s.$ per cwt., c.i.f. terms. *Cumin* is very scarce, and higher prices are asked for both Malta and Morocco. *Canary* slow, but steady, at $34s.$ per quarter for Turkish. *Coriander* slow of sale at recent quotations. *Linseed* has been sold at $61s.$ per quarter for bold clean. *Caraways* quiet at $34s.$ to $35s.$ per cwt. *Fenugreek* slow at $7s.$ per cwt.

SHELLAC has been very quiet, but prices have undergone no change, the spot price for fair second orange TN remaining at $60s.$, and A. C. Garnet, at $63s. 6d.$ per cwt. For arrival, $61s.$ is quoted for February-April shipment, and $59s. 6d.$, c.i.f., for June-August. Futures are firm, business having been done at $64s.$ for August delivery, at which figure there are further buyers but no sellers. At auction on Tuesday, 425 chests were offered, of which 160 chests sold at practically unchanged rates. The following prices were paid:—Second orange, good bright free, $64s.$; bright reddish blocky, $60s.$; medium red block, $57s.$ to $58s.$; ordinary red ditto, $55s.$ to $57s.$; and low red lively, $55s.$. Of 85 chests Garnet offered, ten sold at $53s.$ for dull thin.

SPICES have been very quiet during the past week, but black pepper is steadier, and cloves are rather dearer. The auctions on Wednesday were small; no Cochin *Ginger* was offered, but privately business has been done at $34s.$ to $34s. 6d.$ per cwt. for washed rough. A few lots of Jamaica sold at $40s. 6d.$ per cwt. for small lean washed. *Zanzibar Cloves* have been sold at $4\frac{7}{10}d.$ per lb. for January-March and March-May delivery, being dearer. Penang sold at $9d.$ per lb. for good bright picked, and at $6\frac{3}{4}d.$ for ordinary dark. *Pimento* steady, fair to good partly sold at $2\frac{11}{16}d.$ to $2\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb. *Cinnamon-chips* were bought in at $3\frac{3}{4}d.$ to $4d.$ per lb., and quillings at $7d.$ per lb.; pieces sold at $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. *Black Pepper* has partially recovered the decline of the previous week; Singapore is quoted $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. on the spot, while there are buyers of March-May shipment at $6\frac{5}{16}d.$. Singapore white is quoted $9\frac{1}{16}d.$ to arrive, and Penang $2\frac{3}{16}d.$ per lb.

VANILLA.—The small supply of 345 tins offered in auction practically all sold at full prices, to $1s.$ advance chiefly on short lengths. The buying was chiefly the home trade, and there was a good demand. The following prices were paid:—

SEYCHELLES.—8 to 9 inches, $23s.$ to $25s. 6d.$; 7 to 8 inches, $22s.$ to $23s.$; $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 inches, $21s.$ to $22s. 6d.$

MAURITIUS.—8 to 9 inches, $25s.$ to $26s. 6d.$; 7 to 8 inches, $22s.$ to $24s. 6d.$

London Drug Statistics.

The following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses for the month of January 1901, and to the stocks on January 31.

	January		Stocks		1901	
	Landed	Delivd.	1901	1900	Imprtd.	Delivrd.
Aloes cs &c.	242	157	3,141	2,662	242	157
" gourds	—	—	1,034	—	—	—
Anise, star cs	—	—	43	54	—	—
Balsam, csks &c.	—	226	269	413	—	226
Calumba bgs	110	61	955	205	110	61
Camphor pkgs	503	741	3,601	2,233	503	741
Cardamoms cs &c.	191	234	2,151	2,153	191	234
Cinchona pkgs	2,241	1,744	10,118	15,032	2,241	1,744
Cubebs bgs	—	9	1,539	1,742	—	9
Dragon's-blood cs	—	13	134	117	—	13
Galls pkgs	1,162	891	2,710	1,312	1,162	889
Gums—						
Ammoniacum "	7	13	62	63	7	13
Animi & copal "	2,286	3,372	9,651	9,293	2,286	3,372
Arabic "	555	1,715	16,977	11,937	555	1,715
Asafetida .. "	257	323	313	890	257	323
Benzoïn "	123	197	971	836	123	187
Damar "	492	633	4,421	4,183	492	633
Galbanum .. "	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gamboge "	—	25	189	298	—	25
Guaiaacum .. "	—	6	33	61	—	6
Kauri tons	315	150	2,096	1,642	315	150
Kino pkgs	2	1	27	40	2	1
Mastic "	—	4	28	—	—	—
Myrrh, E. I. .. "	19	14	182	311	19	14
Olibanum .. "	611	136	1,906	2,440	611	136
Sandarac "	214	101	705	651	214	101
Tragacanth... "	1,834	1,172	4,215	1,292	1,834	1,172
Ipecacuanha, Rio bls	30	46	235	183	30	46
" other kinds pkgs	34	22	236	100	34	22
Jalap bls	—	9	322	306	—	9
Nux vomica... pkgs	155	413	1,325	13	155	413
Oils—						
*Anise cs	10	4	179	182	10	4
*Cassia "	—	—	115	84	—	—
*Castor pkgs	117	122	517	846	107	122
Cocoa-nut .. tons	70	109	107	336	70	109
Olive csks, &c.	195	90	598	978	155	90
Palm tons	—	1	5	3	—	1
*Quinine sulph. lbs	3,081	6,468	206,336	177,162	3,081	6,438
Rhubarb chts	132	63	1,253	1,287	132	63
Sarsaparilla .. pkgs	181	111	223	321	181	111
Senna bls &c.	471	355	2,644	2,074	471	355
Shellac pkgs	6,729	3,664	39,783	41,417	6,729	3,664
Turmeric ton?	9	46	428	224	9	46
Wax, bees' pk	248	591	1,137	1,396	163	305
" Japan "	25	54	536	542	25	61

* Stocks of aniseed and cassia oils lying at Smith's Wharf and Brewer's Quay are not included in this return.

† Includes the quantity at Red Lion, Bull, and Smith's Wharves; also the Docks.

The statistics of goods lying at City Commercial Wharf are not included in above returns.

Tea-sweepings and Caffeine.

By a recent decision of the United States Treasury Department tea-sweepings (for the manufacture of caffeine), when mixed with asafetida, can now be imported duty free. For a long time the Treasury Department declined to permit the importation of tea-sweepings under any classification, holding that the Pure Tea Act excluded such merchandise, even though not designed for consumption as tea. Finally a concession was made to the importers upon condition that sufficient asafetida should be mixed with the sweepings. The question then arose as to whether such a mixture could be imported as a crude drug. The Courts have now upheld that it can, and refunds to a considerable amount will be made.

Linseed Oil Speculation.

The following telegram from *Reuter's* agency at Paris has appeared in several of the daily papers this week:—"An incident of considerable commercial importance has occurred at Arras and in the neighbouring district affecting the merchants and manufacturers of linseed oil, the quotations for which have lately been fluctuating to a considerable extent. A bull and a bear syndicate were formed, and the struggle between them led to the downfall of the bulls, whose warehouses were full of linseed oil which they have been unable to dispose of. The stock is considerable. In a week the quotations have dropped from 78 to 54. The loss sustained through these speculations is estimated at ten million francs."

Indian Hemp.

The Government of India intend to amend the present Bombay Abkari Act (1878) by another Bill, to be called the Abkari Act Amendment Bill. The general intention of the measure is to secure as far as possible complete control over the production and sale of hemp-drugs, and to tax them by the imposition of direct quantitative duties. Some of the more important points of the Bill are as follows:—Power is sought to prohibit absolutely, or except under licence, the cultivation of the hemp-plant and the production of hemp-drugs. It is also proposed to establish bonded or other warehouses for the storage of intoxicating drugs, postponing until such time as may be fixed the levy of the duty (if any) payable on them when so stored. Provision is further made for the framing of rules by Government to regulate the time and place of payment of duty. Every person taking out a licence to cultivate hemp shall, if called upon, give such security for the observance of the conditions of his licence as the collector may require.

Coming Events.

Monday, February 11.

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 p.m. Cantor Lecture I. "The Bearings of Geometry on the Chemistry of Fermentation," by Mr. W. J. Pope.

Tuesday, February 12.

Royal Photographic Society, 66 Russell Square, W.C., at 8 p.m. Annual general meeting.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 8 p.m. A communication from the Society's Pharmacy Research Laboratory will be read by Professor H. G. Greenish, F.L.S., on "The Percentage Ash of various Crude Drugs and their Powders."

Wednesday, February 13.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association, 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 9.15 p.m. "The Bearing of Physics on Pharmacy," by Mr. D. B. Dott.

Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society, at 8.30 p.m. Paper by Mr. C. O. Morrison.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association. Mr. F. H. Westmacott on "The Evolution of Medicine."

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 p.m. Mr. W. Thomson on "Arsenic in Beer and Food."

Bradford and District Chemists' Association, County Restaurant, Bradford, at 9 p.m. Mr. John Taylor on "Individualism in Pharmacy."

Newcastle-on-Tyne and District Chemists' Association, Hôtel Métropole, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Smoking concert.

Thursday, February 14

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, Oxford Street, W., at 9 p.m. "The New Gases in the Atmosphere," by Prof. N. Collie.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association, Mason College, Birmingham. Mr. J. Humphreys on "The Tecth of Fish and Reptiles."

Liverpool Chemists' Association, Royal Institution, Liverpool, at 7 p.m. "Phosphorescence and Fluorescence," by Mr. E. Davies; "Bookkeeping for Chemists," by Mr. J. Shacklady.

Meeting at the Institute, 60 Paddington Street, W., at 7 p.m., to inaugurate the formation of the Junior Pharmacy Club. All gentlemen interested are invited.

Chemists' Assistants' Union. Grand Bohemian concert at 60 Paddington Street, W., at 8 p.m. Admission free, by ticket, on application to the Secretary.

Friday, February 15.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W., at 9 p.m. The Right Rev. Monsignor Cerauld Molloy, D.Sc., on "Electric Waves."

The London College dinner and distribution of prizes has been postponed until Thursday, March 7. Any former pupils who were unable to accept for February 1, but are able to attend on the new date, are requested to communicate with the Secretary.

The dinner of the Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association, which was to have been held on February 14, is postponed to March 14.